

BISHOP ABU ASAL: NO PEACE TILL JERUSALEM ISSUE IS RESOLVED

PEACE WILL NOT prevail in the region, unless the issue of Jerusalem — the core of the peace process — is resolved, according to the Bishop of Metropolitan Jerusalem and the Middle East Church, Riyadh Abu Al Asal, who also charged that Israel had no intention of implementing the peace process's provisions in an interview with The Arab Daily. Following is the full text of the interview:

The Arab Daily: How do you see the situation of Jerusalem under the Israeli occupation?

The Bishop: Well, Jerusalem is occupied like any other part of Palestine, except for the fact that the Israelis have annexed it to their territories and declared it their eternal capital, hence violating the UN 181 and 242 resolutions.

Israel is trying to get complete hold of the Holy City. This has dispersed hope for a lasting and just peace in the region.

Second, the Israelis are trying to evacuate the Holy City from its original citizens, namely the Arab Palestinians, both Christians and Muslims.

Israeli authorities intend to withdraw around 50,000 ID cards from the

Jerusalem Arab residents. In fact residents of the holy places are as important as the places themselves.

The Christian community in Jerusalem is very small and is gradually disappearing as a result of the Israeli policies. The Arab Daily: Israeli PM Netanyahu said 'Jerusalem belongs to us.' What is your comment?

The Bishop: Well, Netanyahu may continue to say that Jerusalem is an Israeli land, but we will cling to our position that the Holy City is ours.

With all what it stands for, Jerusalem is the core of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and no settlement will be reached if the issue of Jerusalem is not resolved.

This will only be possible if Israel withdraws from the occupied part of Jerusalem and hands it back to the Palestinians to take as their capital.

Meanwhile, the west part of the city would be Israel's capital.

The Arab Daily: How do you look at the EU stand regarding Jerusalem last week?

The Bishop: Well, the EU community has made it clear that they will not succumb to the expansionist policies of the Israeli

government. Unlike the US congress, the Europeans consider Jerusalem as an occupied land just like the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

The Arab Daily: As a Christian, what do you have to say about the claim that the Temple of Solomon is under the Aqsa Mosque whereas the Samaritan Jewish Sect say the temple is on Jabal Jerzeem?

The Bishop: As far as we are concerned, there is no evidence that the remains of the temple are under the Aqsa Mosque. Moreover, the existence of such a religious site is questionable. The whole issue is a matter of speculations and the Israeli beliefs are groundless.

The Arab Daily: Christians have lived under the Muslim and Israeli rules, could you compare between the two situations?

The Bishop: We have lived with the Muslims for 1300 years and we established distinguished and brotherly ties with them in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and many other places.

But after the establishment of Israel in 1948 many of our people ended up as

refugees who have been denied the right to return, while many have been forced one way or another to immigrate.

As a result, the Christian population went down considerably. I estimate that the Arab Christians are not more than 1.5 percent of the Arab population.

Certainly, the Arab Palestinian Christians were treated like the rest of the Arab minority inside Israel.

The Arab Daily: What is your message to the Muslim-Christian interfaith dialogue?

The Bishop: Unite, fight in one line, join hands and stop fighting amongst each other over trivial issues. Believe that you are members of the one nation. Our hopes for a better future rely on our national unity.

The Arab Daily: How do you see the relationship between the Vatican and Israel after the Vatican recognized Israel?

The Bishop: There is a new relationship between the Vatican and Israel, but they have not yet reached any agreement on the question of Jerusalem. I think they will not discuss it until the stance of Israel is made clear.

The Arab Daily: Does the Vatican have



Bishop Riyadh Abu Al Asal

the right to recognize Israel? The Bishop: The Vatican is a state, they are entitled to recognize Israel. But we expect the Vatican to recognize Palestine as well.

And I think the Vatican recognized Israel in light of UN resolutions, so they will have to recognize the Palestinian state here on the same basis.

The Arab Daily: Do you think that Israel wants peace?

The Bishop: So far, Israel has never built a strategy for peace. The Israeli leaders have always been belligerent, and too far from being peace loving.

Interviewed by ASA'D AZOUNI

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THOUSANDS RETRACE PATH OF JESUS IN JERUSALEM

Yugoslav Envoy denies secret deal with Iraq NATO KEEPS BOMBING DESPITE FIGHTER LOSS

The Arab Daily & Agencies — Yugoslavia's Charge d'Affaires in Amman Oliver Poterzica on Sunday denied a secret military pact between his country and Iraq.

"There is no secret military deal as mentioned by news reports," said the Yugoslav Envoy, referring to a Sunday Telegraph report. The British weekly, citing no sources, reported that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Iraq's Saddam Hussein have joined forces in an alliance aimed at continuing their defiance of western air strikes.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted an unidentified senior diplomat as saying: "It appears that they have identified a common aim to shoot down allied aircraft."

According to the newspaper, Milosevic has agreed to help Saddam shoot down allied aircraft involved in bombing raids against Iraq.

The Sunday Telegraph yesterday claimed that Baghdad has promised to provide Belgrade with oil and cash to sustain Serbia's battered economy in return for receiving Serb assistance in rebuilding Iraq's air defenses and making its jet fighters airworthy.

The Sunday Telegraph quoted a spokesman from the British Foreign Office as saying: "We are aware of the reports that there is a connection between the Iraqi and Serbian regimes."

Poterzica brushed off the report saying "these are British and American allegations." However, he told The Arab Daily that a Yugoslav delegation, led by the Yugoslav Director of Government Companies Department, had visited Baghdad earlier this month.

He added that the visit was aimed at concluding deals within the United Nations "Oil for Food" program.

Poterzica also denied yesterday that the delegation visited Amman, on its way to Baghdad. According to the Sunday Telegraph, the Serb delegation, visiting Baghdad earlier this month, was led by Serbia's deputy defense minister.

The Serb delegation's visit follows an earlier visit on March 9 by a Serb chemical and biological weapons expert, Ivan Ivanovich, according to the newspaper.

Meanwhile, NATO launched late

Sunday a fifth consecutive night of air raids on Yugoslavia, an alliance official said.

Several cruise missiles fired earlier in the day from US navy vessels in the Adriatic apparently hit a military airport in Montenegro.

The expanded bombing raised the risk to NATO pilots but also held the promise of more effective strikes at the heart of Yugoslavia's ground offensive.

The Pentagon and NATO were officially mum on what brought down an Air Force F-117A stealth fighter-bomber near the Yugoslav capital on Saturday.

A senior defense official, however, said there are strong indications it was hit by an SA-3 surface-to-air missile.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no mechanical problem was reported but an explosion was heard. NATO officials, without referring to the F-117A, said SA-3 missiles were fired Saturday.

The F-117A pilot, whose identity was not made public, was reported in "good shape" at Aviano Air Base in Italy after a daring rescue and recovery operation.

The F-117A went down near Budjnovci, 60 kilometers northwest of Belgrade. The stealth fighter's loss was the first by NATO in the Kosovo operation. Allied planes, however, have shot down five Russian-made MIG-29 jet fighters, including two that had flown over Bosnia.

The F-117A had never before gone down in combat, although it flew almost 1,300 sorties during the Gulf War in 1991 and was the only allied aircraft to strike targets in downtown Baghdad.

But the \$45 million stealth fighters have had problems, including the September 1997 crash of one at a Maryland air show. The pilot ejected safely, but the accident prompted the Air Force to temporarily ground the F-117s, suspending routine flights as a precautionary measure.

United States President Bill Clinton, who planned to discuss the Kosovo situation later Sunday, was greeted by protesters as he attended church.

US and NATO officials provided a few details of Saturday's air attacks, which included a further use of the Air Force's B-2 Spirit bomber, a

stealth aircraft built with radar-evading technologies that are a leap ahead of those employed by the smaller 1980s-vintage F-117A fighter-bomber.

NATO officials said 66 allied aircraft attacked 17 major targets on Saturday, including various elements of the Yugoslav air defense network as well as an oil field and an ammunition supply facility.

The Pentagon released a few aerial photographs of damage done by the NATO bombing. One showed a destroyed Serb military HQ in Kosovo, which US General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said was hit by an American cruise missile on the second night of the attacks.

He denied that the loss of the F-117A would jeopardize the American monopoly on stealth technology.

In Belgrade, Milosevic met government and army leaders and declared the country fit to continue its resistance.

But there was growing fear in Montenegro, Serbia's sister republic in the Yugoslav federation whose government is supported by the West that the attacks were only boosting Milosevic and threatening its own stability.

And the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, where NATO troops intended as Kosovo peacekeepers are based, said it would press urgently to be admitted to NATO as protection from Serbia.

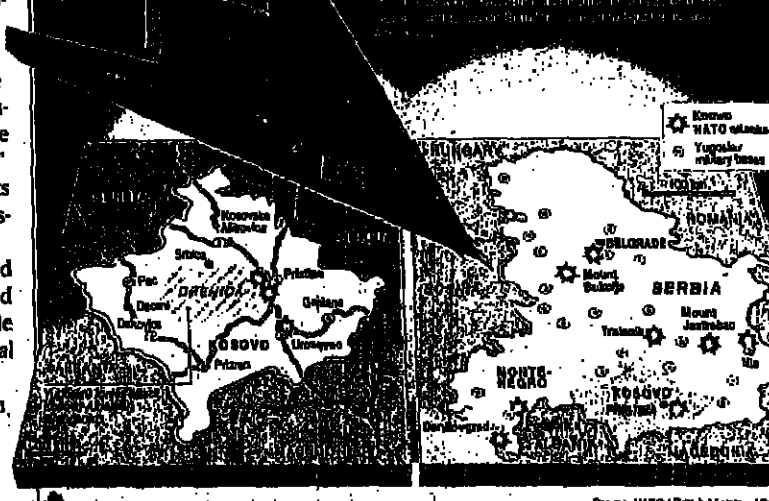
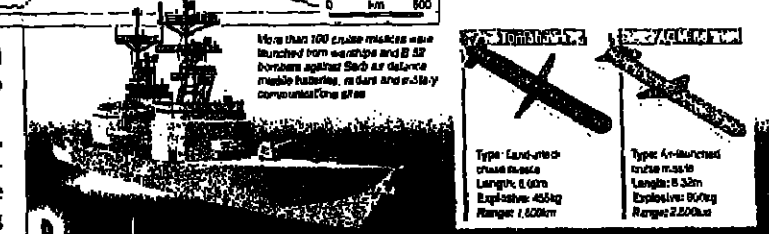
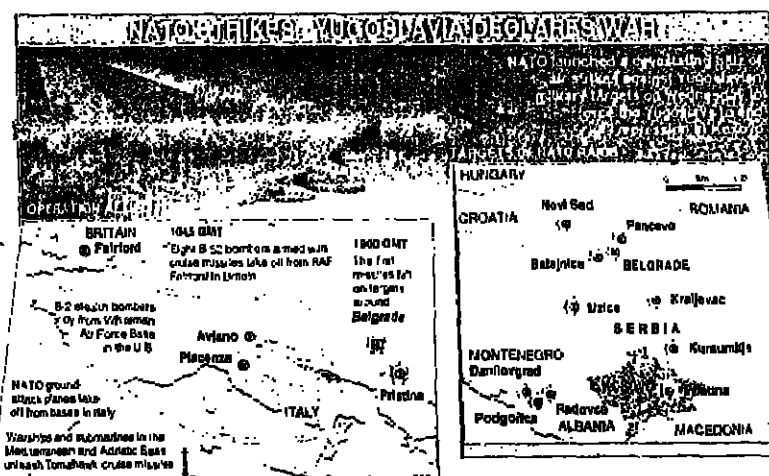
The state-run Tanjug news agency said the Yugoslav people and armed forces were linked by "strong unity, a high patriotic conscience and determination to endure in the just struggle against the criminal aggressors."

Britain said it would more than double its contribution of warplanes to the NATO mission from eight to 20.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said the alliance was not planning to send ground troops into Kosovo at present, but did not rule out that option, fraught with grave political risks for NATO governments, in future.

Several blasts rocked Belgrade on the fifth day of the NATO strikes and air-raid sirens wailed from early morning.

Tanjung said missiles landed near two airports in the suburbs.



Source: NATO / British Ministry of Defence

From the depths of our hearts...

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CROWN PRINCE HAMZAH TURNS 19

TODAY MARKS THE nineteenth birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hamzah Bin Al-Hussein. Prince Hamzah attended military courses at the Jordan Armed Forces, including a parachute course, snipers course, and state visits in many countries around the world, and has attended several Arab and international conferences by the side of the late King.

His Royal Highness has been accorded Al-Hussein gold medal for distinction and Al-Kawkab medal

Born in Amman on March 29th 1980, Crown Prince Hamzah is the eldest son of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The Crown Prince attended his elementary education in Amman where he excelled among his classmates as an avid reader of books, namely the Holy Koran, and was awarded numerous certificates of appreciation for his participation in curricular and extra curricular educational and sports activities.

Crown Prince Hamzah has also received a number of prizes for religious excellence, including "the dome of the rock" from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in 1990, and the history prize from Harrow School in the United Kingdom, where he obtained his GCSE certificate.

Prince Hamzah is currently pursuing his studies at the British Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst.

Prince Hamzah was by the side of his late father during his treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the United States. He came to Jordan to remain by the late King's side during his last days, and later for the funeral.

During his stay in Amman, the Crown Prince received a number of world dignitaries who came to Jordan to offer their condolences.

Prince Hamzah has also interrupted his education at Sandhurst to join Royal family members in marking the end of 40 days of mourning over the passing away of the late King.

His Royal Highness holds the flying wing having successfully completed a special course in helicopters, and an international certificate in scuba diving.

His Royal Highness has also been accorded Al-Hussein gold medal for distinction and Al-Kawkab medal.

His Royal Highness's hobbies include shooting, fencing, judo, skiing and water skiing, as well as flying.

The Crown Prince has accompanied his late father, King Hussein on most of his recent official

bodyguard course, and other courses in the special forces and the anti terrorism units.

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PRINCESS AISHA VISITS SOS IN AQABA

DEPUTIZING FOR HER Majesty Queen Noor the chairperson of the SOS Foundation in Jordan, Her Royal Highness Princess A'isha visited the SOS village in Aqaba on Sunday.

Her Royal Highness distributed gifts to the children of the village on the occasion of Al Adha Eid.

Her Royal Highness was briefed on the activities of the village and the current situation of the children living there.

For their part, the children expressed their joy for Her Royal Highness' initiative, which they said reminded them of the late King Hussein and Queen Noor's numerous visits to the village.

Princess A'isha was received upon her arrival by The Director of SOS and the social workers in the village — Petron.



AMNESTY LAW LEAVES SOME FAMILIES OF PRISONERS IN DISMAY

FAMILIES OF THE ten convicted suspects in the "Islah Wattahaddi" case (rehabilitation and challenge) had their hopes high that their sons would be among those released in accordance with the General Amnesty Law, which was decreed by His Majesty King Abdullah last week.

But, they were disappointed when the President of the State Security Court, Judge Yussef Fa'oury, postponed the trial hearing of the case, which took place on March 23rd, the same day in which the Amnesty Law was approved by the Parliament.

Five minutes through the opening of the hearing, Judge Fa'oury ended the hearing and adjourned the trial to April 27th, leaving families of the convicted dismayed and surprised by the decision.

"Why would he do that?" I thought that my son

would be released under the Amnesty Law, but it seems I was wrong. If my son is guilty, then why don't they announce the punishment sentence and get it over with?" wondered a father of one of the suspects, who asked to be unnamed.

The father added that his son was beaten several times during the investigations and that his son was forced to confess that he was a main accomplice in the case, stressing once again that his son was not a part of it at all.

"My son knows nothing about the explosions. I raised him to serve his country not to destroy it," said the father.

The "Islah Wattahaddi" case involves thirteen suspects. Ten are being detained for investigation, while the remaining three are still at large, reportedly outside the kingdom.

They are accused of possessing, transferring and manufacturing bombs that were used in their attacks against the American School, Jerusalem Hotel Garage and the car of Senate Mohammed Rassoul Kellani.

The explosions took place during April and May of 1998, resulting in material damage.

The thirteen suspects are accused of five different crimes, some of which were included in the Amnesty Law. However, all of the thirteen suspects have been accused of one common crime, that is "conspiracy to commit terrorist acts," which is in violation of articles 147 and 148 of the Penal Law number 16 of the year 1960, which has been excluded from crimes to be pardoned.

by NOURA HAZAN

'IT'S TRAGIC TO BE A REFUGEE, BUT MORE TO BE A 4TH GENERATION REFUGEE'

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER of UNRWA, Peter Hansen, called on the international community to urgently seek a solution to the refugees problem, describing their conditions as tragic.

He said that although the Palestinians enjoy high levels of education and health, it is a bitter tragedy that the fourth generation of Palestinian refugees is still living in camps.

Interviewed by: As'ad Azzoum

Following is the full text of the interview: The Arab Daily: What's all the talk about corruption at UNRWA?

Hansen: Corruption at UNRWA is something that rumors are often spread about. No large organization like UNRWA could ever credibly claim that nobody would have an incentive to do things that would be characterized as corruption.

The important thing is that UNRWA has a very effective audit system, and as soon as any corruption case is discovered, it is dealt with on the spot.

UNRWA has put its finger on few cases of corruption and a very firm action has been taken. Furthermore, we take preventive measures trying to ensure it will never happen again. Therefore, I can safely say that the level of corruption in UNRWA is extremely low.

The Arab Daily: Why is UNRWA completely dependent on donations?

Hansen: It is the same story with all of the UN's institutions. All the specialized organizations like UNDP, UN environment program, UNICEF, World food program, UNRWA and UNCHR are based on voluntary contributions.

The only thing that UNRWA can provide from its own budget is the salaries of the international UNRWA staff, about 100 out of 22,000 UNRWA employees. Thus all the donations, or voluntary contributions go to the refugees.

The Arab Daily: But UNRWA is a special case, isn't it?

Hansen: Every organization says it is a special case. I don't know if it would be a particularly good thing to be on the regular budget of the UN, because many countries have not paid their contributions to the UN, and there are many countries that are in deficit. So if UNRWA were on the regular budget, we will only then be receiving some of what countries would pay over to the regular budget of the International Organization.

But take some of our best contributors like Norway, which is paying 7 times as much through voluntary contributions to UNRWA, as they would have paid if we were on the regular budget. Sweden also is always paying five times as much as they should have been paying. There are other countries which are paying less.

But, of course, I would like to be on the regular budget, if countries were paying what they are committed to. In this case, I would know what money was coming in, and I would not have to run around all the time to get more voluntary contributions.

The Arab Daily: How do you see the future of UNRWA?

Hansen: I can see the future of UNRWA as being alive and active as long as there is a refugee problem in this region, which has not been solved through political negotiations.

I hope UNRWA will continue to provide the same high quality services to the refugee population as it has always done. This is why overcoming this financial crisis is very important to me.

The Arab Daily: How could you see a good and suitable resolution for the refugees issue?

Hansen: A good resolution for the refugees is being politically negotiated by the concerned parties, and UNRWA cannot be involved in politics.

The Arab Daily: Israel refuses to implement the UN resolutions related to the Palestinian refugees. At the same time, the Jewish Agency is searching for the Jews all over the world to bring them to Palestine, what's your comment?

Hansen: I'm not making the Israeli policy. Israel has never accepted UN resolution 194, and I can't be a teacher for them to tell them how they could contribute better to a solution of the refugees problem.

The Arab Daily: UNRWA was established to exclusively provide services to the Palestinian refugees, whereas UNCHR serves other purposes, would you explain?

Hansen: UNRWA was established within a week after UNCHR. That was due to the Arab countries' demand that they wanted a specific

organization to provide services to this particular refugee population.

The Arab Daily: How do you view the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in the camps?

Hansen: I see it as being in many ways a very tragic situation according to all accepted standards. On the brighter side, the Palestinians are the best educated group in the region, and have relatively high health standards.

Nevertheless, it is tragic to be a refugee, and it is even more tragic to be a refugee who belongs to the fourth generation of refugees.

The Arab Daily: What is your message to the international community as far as the refugees conditions are concerned?

Hansen: My message to the international community is to continue very, very actively to seek best resolutions to what is basically a political problem. Seek it peacefully, seek it through negotiations, but urgently. In the meantime, don't give up trying to meet the expectations of the Palestinians to get the minimum level of services.

Peter Hansen has arrived in Jordan last week to sign an agreement on with Japan whereby the Japanese government grants UNRWA the sum of \$6.7 million for its food program.

The money will be used to purchase rice which will be distributed to needy families, mothers and pregnant women benefiting from UNRWA Nutritional Support Program.

The visit coincides with the ongoing conflict between UNRWA and its employees who are protesting against the agency's pay policy. Hansen on his part sent a letter to UNRWA employees assuring them that the agency is taking reformative measures including early pension, health insurance and a new salary scale which may considerably improve employment conditions in the agency.

The visit also comes at a time when UNRWA suffers badly from a budget deficit estimated at \$60 million which might force UNRWA to cut down services to the Refugee Camps.

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NICOLA NASSER
Responsible Chief editor



US Umbrella to Israeli Intransigence

THE US PASSIVITY vis-a-vis whatever relates to pressuring Israel into compliance with the peace accords remains a major obstacle to Mideast stability and constitutes the main umbrella to Israeli intransigence.

The statement by the spokesman of the US embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday, that Israel does not have to resume troop withdrawals from the occupied Palestinian territories until the Palestinians meet their commitments under the Wye agreement, was described as "a sharp change of emphasis" by the US administration. It was in fact a new confirmation that the American stance is out of step with the international community as regards the peace process between Arabs and Israelis.

The timing of the statement could be explained as a balance to the EU Berlin declaration on Thursday. If so, then the US should reconsider because her sharp change of emphasis is a most untimely that cannot possibly push the peace process forward.

The US has been commending the Palestinian's honest implementation of the Wye accords and urging the Israelis to carry out their part of the deal.

It is enough that during his last visit to Washington, President Yasser Arafat was received by a hostile majority in the Senate and House of Representatives who played in the hands of the Israeli prime minister's electoral campaign by rejecting the right of the Palestinian people to declare a state when the Oslo process expires on May 4. Now the administration is no better on this.

When Netanyahu reacted arrogantly, on Thursday, to the EU Berlin declaration and said that the 15-nation organization is disqualified from taking part in the peace process, he was exploiting the US protective umbrella to the limit. So did his foreign minister Sharon when he stated recently that the UN resolution 181 is "null and void." The same applies to his ambassador to France Ben Elissar who called on the Arabs to "forget about [Security Council] resolution 242," the basis of the Madrid conference of 1991, and who still refuses to meet his Palestinian counterpart in Paris.

It is about time now for the US to be in step with the international community's accelerated consensus on an overdue recognition of the Palestinian people's right to a state and self-determination, and to drop its protective umbrella which is supporting Israeli intransigence and prolonging the occupation of Arab lands.

UJ PRESIDENT DENIES GIVING IN TO STUDENT COUNCIL

THE PRESIDENT OF the University of Jordan (UJ) dismissed allegations by the Students' Council that amendments to the letter marking system have been introduced as a result of a wave of protests by the students, but the students' representatives stick to their story.

"No agreement has been reached with the council as regards to the marking system, and the administration has pledged nothing in this respect," said Weleed Maani, President of UJ.

Maani said the only change that took place was when the university announced that the faculty members will take part in seminars and workshops aiming at more objective application of the present marking system.

The President maintained his previous position that no evaluation of the marking process would occur before the year 2000, when a whole generation of university students will have graduated.

According to Harith Fakhri, Head of the Students Council at the UJ, a meeting was held between Maani and all the council

members nine days ago in which, "the President showed great understanding of the students' demands and promised a prompt solution of the problem, saying that a series of workshops was underway to upgrade lecturers' proficiency in using the letter grading system."

The students' representative, added that it was agreed at the meeting that a unified grading method would be applied.

"The Curve Method is the only means of evaluation to be applied instead of the four methods in use now," Fakhri told The Arab Daily referring to the agreement.

The contradiction between the two statements is more profound.

The students' council issued last week a statement in which they claimed the administration of the university had agreed that three years was enough to conduct an evaluation study of the grading system, but Maani dismissed the allegation and the sit in that took place on March 17 as "noise and as maneuvers

on the part of students' council members to gain more popularity among the UJ students especially that the elections for the Students' Council were upcoming.

In response, Fakhri, on Sunday, expressed his astonishment at the president's attitude and denied claims of the agreement.

"Everybody was there [at the meeting] and even a draft of statement was discussed and the president agreed to it," the head of the Students' Council said.

Fakhri also denied what Maani claimed that the protests against the grading system were part of an election campaign. "It's a matter of speculation, because most of the members of the present council are not running for the upcoming elections, and the issue will not be killed even if new members are elected."

The issue of the letter grading system has been a source of dispute between the council, dominated by the Islamists, and the UJ administration.

by HIYAM SHARQAWI

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HOME WATCH



Hashemite Fund donates Eid sacrifices to poor families

IN MEMORY OF the late King Hussein, the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development distributed Eid sacrifices and other food items to poor families over the first two days of Eid Al Adha.

Initiated by the Higher Committee for the Al Bir and Al Ihsan (Charity) Campaign, the donations were given out to 2100 families around the Kingdom.

The Committee had held a meeting last week, chaired by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi in which they decided to distribute donations and sacrifices to impoverished families as a tribute to the soul of the late King on the occasion of Eid Al Adha.

50 social development centers in urban, rural and badia areas, who had collected the donations, sent out volunteers to visit the families.

The move symbolized the immortal values and humanitarian principles that marked the life of the late King Hussein.

The work and activities of the Hashemite Fund for Human Development are inspired by the late King's statement "humans are our most precious asset".

Aid, estimated at JOD 50 thousands, was distributed by teams jointly set up by the Fund, the social centers and other voluntary societies around the Kingdom.

Al Bir and Al Ihsan campaign is carried out by the Hashemite Fund, throughout the year and operates more actively during the month of Ramadan in providing assistance for impoverished families — Petra.

Abbadi overlooks the conditions of Jordanian pilgrims in Makkah

MINISTER OF AWQAF and Islamic Affairs Abdul-Salam Abbadi, heading the Jordanian mission to Saudi Arabia, made a tour of the camps of Jordanian pilgrims, performing the Haj in Makkah to inspect their living and health conditions.

The minister was accompanied by a number of deputies also performing the Haj in Makkah.

In an interview with Jordan Television, the Minister said the pilgrims were enjoying comfortable living conditions, and that their affairs were being constantly monitored by the mission, which undertakes that their Haj procedures run according to regulations.

The Minister also said that the medical delegation were providing full medical services to pilgrims around the Holy site, where several clinics have been opened for this purpose.

Head of the medical delegation said that all the necessary medical equipment and medications were available and accessible to all those who may need medical attention, but assured that all Jordanian pilgrims enjoyed good health — Petra.

Sarairah inspects port projects in Aqaba

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT and Telecommunications, Jamal Sarairah visited Sunday The Ports Corporation in Aqaba.

The Minister met with the Director General of The Corporation, Mohammad Dalabih, who briefed him on the activities of the corporation and problems hampering the development of its work.

Sarairah then discussed with the Director General the costs of transferring the Phosphate and Main ports to the southern area of the city.

The meeting also dealt with the development of the Industrial Ports.

The Minister then inspected the main port, rice and cement ports as well as Al Safi Salt Export Project.

Sarairah also visited the passengers station and the new trucks station project executed by The United Company.

The new station includes parks and restaurants for drivers and is expected to considerably undermine the problem of trucks clustering in the city of Aqaba — Petra.

SOUQ PEDDLERS: THIS IS ONE OF THE SLOWEST EIDS IN MANY YEARS

VERY FEW PEOPLE carried shopping bags home from the souq on that Friday preceding the Eid. Not that it got any better on Saturday. There were no street wide banners declaring Eid, nor did the general mood suggest any festivity.

Due to the current recession, purchasing power was not to the level that shop owners expected.

There were large crowds of people in Jabal Al Hussein and downtown shopping areas but the majority of them were apparently window shopping.

Most shop owners interviewed by The Arab Daily said that their volume of sale had not exceeded a quarter of last year's.

"The selling is much less than last Eid or the year before. It did not cover my daily income, I used to receive more than 200 buyers per day," complains Ahmad Biqal, a textile merchant.

Biqal blames the situation on the lack of foreign workers in the country, which he says has had a major effect on his sales.

The owner of shoe shop in Sweilayeh, usually frequented by endless torrents of teenagers looking for the latest fypes, also complained saying "my sales have lessened comparing to last Eid."

"Do not be misled by the scene of all these people standing here," Blaser adds, referring to the large number of people pawing the shops' goods.



But, the owner has hopes that these same window shoppers will come back on the second and third day of Eid after they get their "Eidat" (money gifts).

Some hopeful shop owners opened their shops yesterday on the second day of Eid, in contradiction to custom, whereby shops stay closed till the third day at least, in anticipating delayed potential shoppers.

The souq's depression, meanwhile, has also affected black labor sectors such as Jabal Al Hussein's streets peddlers who

howled "one item for one JOD," while their compatriot peddlers in downtown streets who gave a better deal of "six items for one JOD or five items for one JOD and take one for free."

Distributors like Walid Khamis who sells toys and gadgets to these street peddlers experienced the souq's depression, as those small merchants haggled with him to the last fils.

"In any Eid, toy sales go up," Khamis says. But unlike other Eids, says Khamis, "this one appears to be a slow one."

A decade ago, shop owners would rarely open their shops till the third or fourth day. Streets would be crowded with cars and shoppers on the night before Eid. Restaurants would bustle with expatriates and tourists from neighboring Gulf Arab countries. But this year it appears that people chose to spend their Eid at home or at visits to relatives.

The only people who made a killing this year were livestock traders (see related story).

by SAMAR HJAWI

SACRIFICED

PASSING THROUGH THE streets of Amman during the days preceding Al-Adha Eid, one would see scores of sheep tied to barns under the watchful eyes of their owners, the scene is typical of Al-Adha.

During the bad weather days Bahjat al Nawayseh (Abu Mohammad) erects his barn-tent which contains sheep and cows for the duration of ten days during which his business booms as Muslims buy the beasts to sacrifice them during the Eid.

"This is an occasion to increase cattle owners income, and to help the poor, many of whom are only remembered by the luckier ones on the Eid," Abu Mohammad says.

Abu Mohammad said that most people only came to his tent during the last two days preceding the Eid. However, during those two days he has managed to sell about "100 heads."

Sacrifice according to Islam is a positive traditional practice kept by the prophet Mohammed, and those who can afford it are strongly urged by the Koran to undertake it.

Sheep or other sacrifices are slaughtered between the hour following the Eid prayer and the sunset of the fourth day after Eid.

Sacrificing aims at helping the poor and thus spread goodwill between the rich and the poor in the community.

People who do not wish to pursue the practice themselves, can pay the equivalent cost of a sacrifice to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which passes on the money to Zakah committees, who in turn undertake the slaughtering and distribution of the sacrifices to the poor families.

There are more than one hundred Zakah committees in Jordan," Ali Ababdeh director of



Zakah committees said.

In addition to Jordanian citizens' sacrifices the country receives around 20,000 head of sheep that come from Saudi Arabia, which distributes through its Zakah committees, the sacrifices of the pilgrims to other Islamic countries around the world.

According to Sunnah in Islam, the sacrificed sheep should be in a good health condition and have completed one year of age.

Regarding the distribution of the meat, a person who sacrifices an animal can keep one

ARABS HAIL EU STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

AGENCIES — Jordan joined the Arab nations on Saturday in their praise of the stand taken by European leaders who called for Palestinian statehood within a year. Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib described the EU statement as a "positive development and very important for achieving a just and lasting settlement to the peace process."

"The move at the end will receive unanimous global support," he added in remarks carried by Petra news agency.

In Syria, an official newspaper described it as "an important step."

"No doubt this declaration of the European Union... and its stress on the Palestinian right to self-determination and establishing a state, form an important step at this time," state run Al Thawra newspaper said.

European leaders' strongest support yet for Palestinian statehood came Friday at the end of their three-day summit in Germany. In a statement, they said that Israel should ful-

fill the "unqualified Palestinian right" to independence within a year.

Doing so, the leaders said "would be the best guarantee for Israeli security."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that a Palestinian state would endanger Israel. A Palestinian state, he said, could build a large army and forge alliances with regimes hostile to Israel.

The Arab newspaper Khaleej Times of the United Arab Emirates said the European Union's backing of Palestinian statehood was significant for its wording and timing.

"The declaration is the strongest affirmation so far by the European community of its belief in the 'inalienable and unrestricted right' of the Palestinians to self-determination," the independent newspaper said.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has said he may declare a Palestinian state on May 4, but he was widely expected to postpone such a step until after

Israel's May 17 elections.

Syria: EU more sincere than US

In Damascus, Syria said Sunday that the European Union, which came out in favor of a Palestinian state, is more sincere than the United States in its intentions to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The European Union has shown that it is the most sincere in the hunt for solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict because it is near this region and has historical ties with it," the official Syrian newspaper Tishrin said.

"The European Union isn't biased toward the Arabs but has adopted a policy in line with international law while the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, has reneged on its commitments under pressure from the Zionist lobby," Tishrin charged.

The European body issued a statement Friday from its Berlin summit reaffirming "the continuing and unqualified Palestinian right to self-determination,

including the option of a state." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says a Palestinian state would pose a danger to Israel's existence.

The 1993 Oslo interim peace accords call for Israel and the Palestinians to negotiate the "final status" of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab east Jerusalem.

The EU also called in its statement for the "early resumption of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks" of the peace process.

Syrian-Israeli peace talks were broken off in February 1996.

Syria demands that Israel agree to hand back the entire Golan Heights as a condition for resuming the talks.

Israel, which occupied the strategic plateau in the 1967 Middle East conflict, said it wants to resume the talks without conditions.

Lebanon says it cannot make peace with Israel before the Jewish state concludes a peace accord with Damascus.

ISRAELI F-16 CRASHES, CREW EJECTS

ASHQELON (AFP) — An Israeli F-16 jet fighter suffered engine failure and crashed into the Mediterranean on Sunday, but the two crewmen ejected and were rescued, the army said.

The pilot was slightly injured in the incident, which occurred during a training flight near the coastal city of Ashqelon, 50 kilometers south of Tel Aviv, it said.

It was the third American-made F-16 to crash in Israel since September 1997 and the air force announced an investigation into the causes of the accident.

"During a training flight off the coast near Ashqelon the F-16 pilot detected a problem with the engine and the crew had to eject over the sea," the army said in a statement.

Israel Radio quoted military sources as expressing concern about the 30-million-dollar US warplane given that 34 of them have crashed worldwide since 1997.

The US Defense Department announced this weekend that Washington intended to sell an additional 50 F-16s to Israel in a deal valued at two billion dollars.

The Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv reported in 1995 that Israel had 250 F-16's in its arsenal.

POLL: MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS FAVOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

TEL AVIV (AP) — For the first time ever, a majority of Israelis favor immediate, unilateral withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, according to a poll published Sunday.

The poll showed 55 percent of respondents supporting immediate, unilateral withdrawal, compared with 44 percent in 1998 and 41 in 1997.

The Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies poll has a margin of error of three percentage points.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. When it pulled out in 1985, it carved out a "security zone" in the south to protect Israel's northern border against raids by Lebanese or Palestinian guerrillas.

Protests have been mounting in Israel over losses among the 1,500 Israeli soldiers in the zone, most of them killed by a Lebanese guerrilla group, the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

The army maintains that Israeli casualties have been falling; nonetheless, public sensitivity has increased.

Withdrawal has become an issue in the May 17 elections, with all three major candidates promising a negotiated pullout in the near future.

Unlike most security issues, this one cuts across the traditional party lines, with some prominent doves warning that unilateral

withdrawal would be a disaster and some veteran hawks among those claiming that the army could defend the border just as well from inside Israeli territory.

Those opposed to unilateral withdrawal argue that Syria, which has over 30,000 troops in Lebanon and is the real power there, will always encourage guerrilla attacks on the Israeli-Lebanese border to pressure Israel to return the Golan Heights.

Israel captured the strategic plateau in the 1967 Mideast war.

The poll was conducted between Jan. 25 and March 7. The size of the sample was 1,203.

ISRAELI PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE RESUMES AFTER WEEKEND BREAK

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A general strike by 400,000 Israeli public sector workers resumed Sunday after a break for the Jewish Sabbath, with unions vowing to toughen their protest unless the government agrees to wage concessions.

Talks between the Histadrut trade union federation and the ministry of finance late Saturday failed to resolve the dispute which centers on how much salaries should be increased to keep pace with inflation.

Garbage piled up in the streets of all Israel's towns and cities and workers at Israel's main Ben Gurion international airport said they would prevent planes from

departing for a three-hour period Sunday morning.

But the unions did not threaten to close down the airport at a time when tens of thousands of Israelis plan to travel abroad for the weeklong Jewish holiday of Passover which begins Wednesday.

Many airlines flying out of Israel brought their Sunday flights forward to Saturday as a precaution.

The strike, which began Friday and Saturday for the Sabbath, has shut down state defense firms and most government offices and disrupted work at public hospitals and the elec-

tricity and water authorities.

The walkout also halted broadcasting by state radio and television stations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charged that the strike was a bid to embarrass his right-wing government and obtain unreasonable concessions ahead of May 17 general elections.

"This is an attempt at blackmail before Passover and the elections to extort money from the public coffers," Netanyahu said.

The unions are demanding an 8.6 percent cost-of-living wage hike for 1998 while the government has refused to offer more than a 3.1 percent pay increase.

FULL TEXT OF THE EU STATEMENT

Following is the full text of the EU statement which was released Thursday night:

The Heads of State and Government of the European Union reaffirm their support for a negotiated settlement in the Middle East, to reflect the principles of land for peace and ensure the security both collective and individual of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

In this context, the European Union welcomes the decision by the Palestinian National Council and associated bodies to reaffirm the nullification of the provisions in the Palestinian National Charter which called for the destruction of Israel and to reaffirm their commitment to recognize and live in peace with Israel.

However, the European Union remains concerned at the current deadlock in the peace process and calls upon the parties to implement fully and immediately the Wye River Memorandum.

The European Union also calls upon the parties to reaffirm their commitments to the basic principles established within the framework of Madrid, Oslo and subsequent agreements, in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338.

It urges the parties to agree on an extension of the transitional period established by the Oslo agreements.

The European Union calls in particular for an early resumption of final status negotiations in the coming months on an accelerated basis, and for these to be brought to a prompt conclusion and not prolonged indefinitely.

The European Union believes that it should be possible to conclude the negotiations within a target period of one year.

It expresses its readiness to work to facilitate an early conclusion to the negotiations.

The European Union urges both parties to refrain from activities which prejudice the outcome of those final status negotiations and from any activity contrary to international law, including all settlement activity, and to fight incitement and violence.

The European Union reaffirms the continuing and unqualified Palestinian right to self-determination including the option of a state and looks forward to the early fulfillment of this right.

It appeals to the parties to strive in good faith for a negotiated solution on the basis of the existing agreements, without prejudice to this right, which is not subject to any veto.

The European Union is convinced that the creation of a democratic, viable and peaceful sovereign Palestinian State on the basis of existing agreements and through negotiations would be the best guarantee of Israel's security and Israel's acceptance as an equal partner in the region.

The European Union declares its readiness to consider the recognition of a Palestinian State in due course in accordance with the basic principles referred to above.

The European Union also calls for an early resumption of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the Middle East Peace Process, leading to the implementation of UNSCRs 242, 338 and 425.

US: PALESTINIANS MUST MEET COMMITMENTS BEFORE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a sharp change of emphasis, a US official said Sunday that Israel does not have to resume troop withdrawals in the West Bank until the Palestinians meet their commitments under the Wye agreement.

US embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz stressed that the United States still expects Israel to unfreeze other aspects of the US-brokered Wye River accords.

Until recently, Washington had blamed Israel for the current deadlock in the peace process, saying the Palestinians have gone a long way towards fulfilling their obligations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu froze Wye River in December, accusing the Palestinians of failing to contain anti-Israeli violence.

"If you read the Wye agreement you see that the hand over of territory is the last step, and that other conditions have to be met first by the Palestinians," Schwartz said.

The conditions Schwartz listed include the collection of weapons from Palestinian opposition groups such as Hamas; the prosecution and imprisonment of activists who have killed Israelis since the Oslo accords; and consistent cooperation with Israel in prevention of suicide bombings and other attacks against Israelis.

"We have to make sure that there is no revolving door," Schwartz told The Associated Press, using Netanyahu's term for what he says is a Palestinian policy of arresting then releasing activists.

Israel must also fulfill its other Wye commitments without delay, he said.

ARAB WATCH

Israeli wounded while attempting to cross into Jordan

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli man was lightly wounded while attempting to cross the Israeli border into Jordan, according to a statement published Sunday by the Israeli army. The statement said that Israeli army soldiers on a routine patrol Friday identified the footsteps of a man leading toward the Jordanian border near the Dead Sea. After a pursuit, the man was caught. During his capture, he was shot accidentally by a bullet from one of the soldiers. The army would only identify him as an Israeli citizen. The man was subsequently transferred to a hospital for medical care, and the army is checking the circumstances of the incident.

PNA releases Islamic activists

NABLUS (AP) — Palestinian security forces released ten Islamic activists after concluding that they had not been involved in illegal activities, a senior security official said Sunday. Gen. Mohammad Jabareen, director of the Jneid prison, said that the prisoners were released from the prison late Saturday after a review of their files and as a gesture to the Muslim holiday of Al Adha, or feast of the sacrifice. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) arrested scores of activists from the Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups after anti-Israel attacks. Most are held without charges or trial, according to human rights groups.

Gambian president gets married in Morocco

RABAT (AFP) — Gambian President Yahya Jammeh was married in Morocco, official sources said on Sunday. No details were given about his wife, said by some sources to be a Moroccan national. Jammeh, 34, began a visit to Morocco on Wednesday. Officials said the wedding on Friday was attended by Morocco's Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, his younger brother Prince Moulay Rachid, and King Hassan II's two daughters, Princesses Lalla Meriem and Lalla Asmaa. Also present were Morocco's Prime Minister Abderrahmane Yousoufi, other government members and African envoys accredited to the north African country. Moroccan authorities provided a luxurious residence for the west African head of state.

Czech foreign minister to visit Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Czech Foreign Minister Jan Kavan is due in Yemen Friday for talks which will focus on plans for the construction of a Skoda car assembly plant and possibilities of investing in the Aden free zone, the official Saba news agency said Sunday. During his two-day visit, Kavan will also hold talks on strengthening ties between the two countries and discuss cooperation in development, investment and trade, the agency said. The Czech company Aero recently concluded a contract for the delivery of 12 military training aircraft to Yemen this year. Aero, 35 percent of which is owned by the US company Boeing, is also to supply Yemen with spare parts and undertake training for pilots and mechanics.

Somali faction lifts ban on aid transport

NAIROBI (AFP) — An armed Somali faction has lifted a ban it imposed last November on transport vehicles between Mogadishu and Baldoia and pledged to protect aid workers and their property, it said Sunday. The Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRC) said in a statement sent to AFP here that it was lifting the ban to allow normal transport of relief aid and other commercial activities between the Somali capital and Baldoia in the southwestern Bay and Balol regions. "Unarmed public transport and vehicles of aid agencies are not forbidden to travel on this route," RRA representative here Sayid Ahmad Sheikh Mohammad said.

Daylight savings time begins in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon moved its clocks forward one hour at midnight Saturday, ushering in seven months of daylight savings time. Lebanon is now three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

HILLARY CLINTON ARRIVES IN MARRAKECH DURING MOROCCO VISIT

MARRAKECH (AFP) — US First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived at Marrakech in Morocco on Sunday for the second day of a private visit to the north African country.

President Clinton's wife, with their daughter Chelsea, arrived in Morocco on Saturday and went to Errachidia and then Erfoud, on the edges of the desert, and to the Oued Ziz valley near Ouarzazate, where she visited a school and hospital complex. Hillary Clinton's stay in Morocco is due to last six days. She arrived from Tunisia after a similar visit to Egypt.



US First Lady Hillary Clinton (10) meets Tunisian president Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali at the Carthage Palace in Tunis on Friday at the end of her three day visit to Tunisia.

IRAQ CALLS FOR UNITED FRONT AGAINST UNITED STATES

BAGHDAD (R) — An official Iraqi newspaper called on Sunday for a united front against the United States and its "imperialist" policies as NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia entered a fifth day.

The call came a day after a US official reportedly warned President Saddam Hussein not to take advantage of the Yugoslav crisis and step up Iraq's military defiance to Washington.

"The continued aggression against Iraq and the current aggression on Yugoslavia should alert the international community to the necessity of taking serious measures to confront the imperialist threat," Al Thawra newspaper said.

"If efforts are not unified and there is no real, organized work, the imperialist American danger will spread and include other countries," the mouthpiece of the

ruling Baath Party said.

"The understanding of independence and sovereignty does not receive the necessary respect at an age when the raging American bull is unleashed on the world."

Iraq has strongly condemned NATO's attacks on Yugoslavia over Kosovo which began on Wednesday. The attacks have received wide coverage in Baghdad's official media which is usually dominated by local news.

US Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk was quoted by the London-based newspaper Al Hayat as saying that the United States was capable of dealing with any military threat he might consider during the attacks on Yugoslavia.

"If Saddam believes that we do not have the ability to face any challenge he might pose against us as we are involved in han-

dling the crisis in Kosovo, then he would be making a big mistake," Indyk was quoted on Saturday as saying.

"We have big capabilities at the stage of operations in the Middle East that are capable of facing any threats and will not be affected by what is happening in Kosovo," Indyk said.

Al Hayat said it would publish the full interview on Monday.

Iraq is enjoying a respite in its confrontations with US and British warplanes over two no-fly zones as NATO pounds Yugoslavia over Kosovo.

But sources in Baghdad believe the lack of action in the skies over northern and southern Iraq in the past nine days is linked to the Muslim pilgrimage or Haj season and the Eid Al Adha feast rather than a change of policy in Baghdad or Washington.



Israeli Jews of Yugoslavian decent demonstrate against the NATO bombardment of Yugoslavia outside the British embassy in Tel Aviv on Thursday. Some 30 people participated in the spontaneous demonstration.

AUSTRALIAN SHIP TO JOIN UN SANCTION TEAM AGAINST IRAQ

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia will send the guided missile frigate HMAS Melbourne to the Arabian Gulf to help enforce sanctions against Iraq, Defense Minister John Howard said Sunday.

"HMAS Melbourne will be going to the United Nations force in the Gulf, leading here about the end of April," Howard said in a television interview.

He said the vessel would serve as part of the naval deployment under UN sanctions for enforcement action against Iraq.

"Their role is to intercept ships or small vessels that may be carrying cargo to Iraq or Iraq which is currently under sanction," from the United Nations, he said.

Melbourne went to the Gulf May 1996, also as part of a UN force.

Six other Australian ships also have spent time in the

Haj Pilgrimage Peaks As Muslims Celebrate Feast of the Sacrifice

AGENCIES — Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims began performing the symbolic ritual of stoning the devil for the second day Sunday under a searing desert sun and amid tight Saudi security.

Helicopters hovered over the mountain plain near Mina, 10 kilometers north of Mecca, which was a sea of white, dotted by the green and black umbrellas of those seeking relief from the scorching sun.

The ritual that symbolizes the rejection of Satan's temptations began at noon Sunday (0900 GMT) and is to last until midnight (2100 GMT) when a total of 1.7 million pilgrims, dressed in seamless white robes, will have thrown pebbles at three pillars of light gray stone that represent the devil. With each pebble, the pilgrims chanted "Allahu Akbar," or "God is Great."

Some pilgrims took shelter from the sun by standing under trees or bridges.

The Haj ends Monday with a third and final visit to throw small stones at the 15-meter-high pillars before wrapping up their journey to Islam's holiest cities of Mecca and Medina.

More than 45,000 personnel have been mobilized to deal with the pilgrims, including security troops, caterers and medical teams.

Walkways have been widened, many covered to provide shade.

Some 58 tunnels were being used by buses and cars and 750 tons of garbage have been cleaned up in the area, according to Saudi officials quoted by newspapers. They said pilgrims had made 70 million telephone calls since the Haj began Friday.

At the tent city in Mina Saturday, pilgrims enjoyed a feast of freshly slaughtered sheep, goats and camels. The slaughters marked the start of one of the most important Islamic holidays — Eid Al Adha, or Feast of the Sacrifice. The three-day event commemorates the sacrifice by the biblical Abraham, or Ibrahim, of a ram in place of his son.

86,000 receive medical care

Some 86,000 pilgrims have received medical care around Islam's holiest sites in the last two days, Saudi authorities said Sunday.

On Friday alone, when the pilgrims gathered under a scorching sun on the Arafat plain near the western city of Mecca, 68,000 people were treated at health centers and hospitals, the health ministry said.

Of these, 123 are still in hospital, according to the ministry statement published in Saudi newspapers. Most of the sick were suffering from respiratory and heart problems.

Fifty-five people succumbed to heat stroke, one seriously, because of scorching temperatures on Friday, which reached 35 degrees Celsius.

The authorities distributed more than three million bottles of water to pilgrims on Friday.

More than 1.7 million Muslims are taking part in this year's pilgrimage known as the Haj, with almost 650,000 Muslims living in Saudi Arabia joined 1.056 million pilgrims from abroad.

On Saturday, 18,000 pilgrims were treated in the health centers of Muzdalifa, a few kilometers from Arafat, mostly for respiratory problems and exhaustion.

The Saudi authorities have announced no deaths since the start of the Haj, although they have 90 hearers at the ready.

In a statement to newspaper, Health Minister Osama Shabkachi said "the health of the pilgrims is excellent and there are no contagious diseases."

He said most of the pilgrims who had been hospitalized were suffering from chronic diseases and illnesses connected to the heat.

Wheeler-dealers of all hues

Cut-price barbers, beggars, travelling salesmen and wheeler-dealers of all hues have invaded Mina to cater for the hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims who will stay here for three days.

Tilting his head in the direction of Mecca, a Pakistani pilgrim has his mop trimmed by one of dozens of barbers who have set

up shop everywhere including the pavement.

Some have even taken over ground just a few meters away from one of the three pillars symbolizing the devil, which pilgrims have been stoning since Saturday as part of the ritual of the pilgrimage, known as the Haj.

A little blood trickles under the hands of barbers new to the profession, but pilgrims nursing wounded scalps still come away satisfied. They pay their 15 riyals (four dollars) and disappear into the crowds.

The haircut comes between the stoning of the first pillar and the sacrifice of an animal. For men it means trimming the hair and for women cutting a lock.

Hundreds of licensed barbers are designated by the municipality every Haj to carry out this ritual in special shops open 24 hours a day. Some can get through as many as 500 clients in one day.

This little money-spinner also attracts several hundred — the Saudi Gazette newspaper suggested 700 — unlicensed barbers, particularly out-of-work expatriate laborers.

A razor, soap and a pail of water are the only assets needed. A shop seems an unnecessary luxury when there is a pavement.

"The hands are untrained, which means lots of wounds, but more seriously the same razor is used for several clients which helps spread disease among pilgrims," the Okaz daily said Sunday.

A more lucrative and less harmful trade is begging, which flourishes in Mina, particularly during the four days of sacrifice.

Hordes of the sick and elderly have descended on Mina along with professional beggars, although begging is forbidden in the kingdom.

Even though gamy-legged Abdullah Mohsen admits "begging is not civilized behavior and not suitable for the Haj," he has still claimed a patch of begging ground near the pillars, the Al Nadwa daily reported.

His main worry is how he will convert his takings, received in a multitude of currencies, into the currency of his homeland Sudan.

But above all, Mina has become



A general view shows tents erected in Mina near Mecca for pilgrims to spend the first day of Eid Al-Adha. Armed with millions of pebbles, hundreds of thousands of Moslem pilgrims performed the "Stoning of Satan" ritual in Mina, on Friday.

of a camel on the Arafat plain near Mecca, where pilgrims gathered Friday near the Mount of Mercy.

The man and his three camels make as much as 7,000 riyals (\$1,870) each year during the pilgrims' stay on Arafat. He has been doing the job for 30 years.

Although camels are forbidden near the holy sites, except on the

Arafat plain, they used to be the main form of transport for pilgrims travelling to Mecca and Medina for the pilgrimage.

Three Saudis this year made the journey from Riyadh to Mecca by camel to celebrate the ruling family's 100 years in power. The 1,000 kilometer journey took them 25 days.

Asmara had reported that 10,000 Ethiopians had been killed on the central front, but this was denied by Addis Ababa.

After five days of nothing more than a brief communique stating that fighting was continuing around the Mereb river, near Shembeko, the Addis Ababa government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi finally issued its toll for Operation Sunset, the name given to the offensive that led to the recapture of Badme.

Sunday's statement claimed that "22,300 enemy troops were killed, wounded or captured, 26 tanks were destroyed and 15 tanks were captured" in that region, while "hundreds of mortars, anti-aircraft and heavy artillery were captured" and "two Eritrean MIG 29's were shot down by the Ethiopian Air Force."

Five Eritrean divisions in the field suffered "heavy human losses," the statement said.

ETHIOPIA CLAIMS 45,000 ERITREAN TROOPS OUT OF ACTION

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Ethiopia on Sunday claimed that more than 45,000 Eritrean soldiers had been killed, wounded or captured since the end of February on the western and central fronts of their border war.

According to a government statement made available to AFP, "more than 45,000 enemy troops have been killed, wounded or captured," while "77 tanks have been destroyed and 19 tanks have been captured."

"Hundreds of mortars, anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons and medium range heavy artillery have been captured," said the statement, which gave no figures for losses among Ethiopian ranks.

The Addis Ababa government said that between March 17 and 26, Eritrean troops tried to retake the Badme zone, which was seized back by Ethiopia at the end of February.

In the fighting then, close to the Mereb river on the western front, 13,700 Eritrean soldiers were killed, injured or taken prisoner, according to Addis Ababa.

Eritrea took control of Badme when the war over disputed border territory in the Horn of Africa broke out in May last year.

When Badme was seized back by Ethiopia in February, Eritrean President Issaias Afewerki told the United Nations that Asmara would accept a peace plan drawn up by the Organization of African Unity

(OAU). Since then, however, battles have continued amid differences over interpretation of the plan, which provides for a withdrawal of troops to pre-war positions, the deployment of peacekeepers and independent delineation of the contested frontier.

Addis Ababa also said that on the central front more than 9,000 Eritrean soldiers were killed or injured between March 13 and 16, when "36 enemy tanks were destroyed," together with three batteries each containing four or five long-range heavy artillery pieces.

Five Eritrean divisions in the field suffered "heavy human losses," the statement said.

THOUSANDS RETRACE PATH OF JESUS IN JERUSALEM

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Retracing Jesus' final steps into Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago, Christian pilgrims from around the world, led by Palestinian children, sang hymns and hiked on Palm Sunday from the Mount of Olives to the Old City of Jerusalem.

Surveying a biblical valley dotted with green vegetation and stone houses hugging the hill-sides, Heidi Vogeler, 20, from Salt Lake City said, "sometimes it's hard to believe that it happened right here."

Walking briskly with a group of 60 other students from the Mormon study center, Vogler rejoiced in the moment.

"It's an incredible experience to be here in Jerusalem now," she said.

The hike, led each year by Christian Palestinian children in scout uniforms, began at the Church of the Ascension, where Jesus started his last journey to the gates of Jerusalem.

Palm Sunday marks Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on a white donkey on the Sunday before his crucifixion, when his followers laid palm branches in his path. The day begins Christianity's most solemn period, the week that ends with Easter next Sunday.

Young people waved two-meter-high branches, while others had more modest palm sprigs tucked in their camera bags for the hour-long walk across the historical landscape.

Many carried olive branches instead of palm fronds. Then, as now, olive trees are more commonplace in the Holy Land than palm trees, explained Paul Sylvestre, a Franciscan friar from Montreal, Canada who has been in Jerusalem for six years.

Roger Syverson, from a St. Paul, Minnesota church group,

watched the procession go by and said he was glad to be here this year, rather than on the millennium.

"I think the year 2000 is a good year not to come," laughed the white-haired, slender pilgrim, wondering how there would be room for the millions of tourists expected to make the pilgrimage next year.

Then he remembered that the Gospel speaks of "multitudes" lining the path Jesus took to the Old City, and the scene made better sense to him, he said.

Earlier, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah conducted mass at the Syrian and Greek Orthodox denominations conducted Palm Sunday services while Catholics celebrate Easter, in the same church.

At the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
At one point during the Palm Sunday mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, worshippers turned and wished each other "peace" in at least seven different languages.

About 100 Christians, many holding palm fronds, stood on either side of the raised stone platform under the basilica, as the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, conducted the mass with the assistance of red-robed priests.

The worshippers came from all over the world - the Holy Land, North America, Europe and the Far East - and stood shoulder to shoulder in front of the tall, ornate wooden structure that represents the tomb of Jesus.

Their palm fronds represented the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, commemorating the palm branches laid in his path by his followers.

There are no pews in the middle of the fourth-century church built on the traditional site of

Calvary, where Jesus took his last few steps before crucifixion.

On Palm Sunday 1999, there was plenty of room in the church.

Next year, the millennium, might be a different story, worried Franciscan Fr. Paul Sylvestre, who has been here for six years said.

It would take only about five hundred people to fill the area around the basilica. Next year, "we are afraid that it will be so packed that it will be hard to move, but we hope that everyone will fit in," he told The Associated Press.

With a big smile, John Goode from Dublin, Ireland, wished peace to everyone around him. "To be here at this time is very relevant and really significant for me," he said. "It means so much because it's part of my belief."

As he spoke, a procession of Syrian Orthodox priests passed in front of him. The church is holy to many Christian denominations. Each has its own services there, following its own calendar.

Palm Sunday is next week according to the Orthodox calendar.

Watching the Latin mass, Karen Kish from Essex, Vermont, said she wasn't sure this is the exact place where the biblical story of the resurrection unfolded - but the holiness of the city to Christians, Muslims and Jews made her certain that it was nearby.

"If all three religions tend to converge on the same spot, then something must have happened here," she said.

Carol Ann Celona of Bradenton, Florida agreed.

"Even if this isn't the exact place, the fact that millions of people have pilgrimaged to here over the centuries makes it more holy than the event," she said.



Christian pilgrims march with palm branches during the annual Christian procession from Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, where thousands of pilgrims marched to the old city of Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, yesterday.

NETANYAHU LASHES OUT AT ISRAELI PRESS OVER CAMPAIGN COVERAGE

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a vitriolic attack against the Israeli press, accusing reporters in remarks broadcast Sunday of siding with opposition leader Ehud Barak in the campaign for May elections.

"There is an army of journalists who have enlisted for Barak," Netanyahu thundered during a meeting of leaders from his rightist Likud party late Saturday.

"I read the newspapers this weekend - not all of them because there is a limit to how much a person can tolerate - there are thousands of words there, disparaging, defamatory and abusive," he said. The remarks were broadcast by Israeli radio.

"The media has to be attacked more, don't believe a single word you read there, unless it's favorable to us," Netanyahu counseled his troops.

Netanyahu has always rallied against the Israeli press, accusing it of a leftist and elitist bias against him.

But his anger boiled over at the weekend following an investigative report in the country's biggest circulation daily, the Yediot Aharanot, on the financing of his election campaign by a right-wing Australian billionaire, Yusef Gutnik.

On Sunday the Yediot reported that Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein was considering ordering a police investigation into the financial ties between Netanyahu's entourage and Gutnik, an ultra-Orthodox Jew who supports ultra-nationalist causes in Israel.

Last week the press revealed that Gutnik, at the request of Netanyahu's wife Sarah, had recently purchased a bankrupt business owned by the former kinder-

garten teacher of the Netanyahu children.

In Saturday's speech, Netanyahu called the Yediot Aharanot "the official organ of Ehud Barak."

Netanyahu's outburst appeared to reflect growing unease over the beginning of the Likud's election campaign.

The prime minister himself is behind Barak in opinion surveys and internal Likud polls reportedly show the public has not taken to the campaign themes.

Netanyahu's attack on the press was made at the start of a meeting of Likud candidates and the prime minister's American public relations adviser, Finkelstein, who was reportedly in Jerusalem to breathe new life into the campaign.

JIANG DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS, BUSINESS IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA (R) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin discussed human rights and economic relations with Austrian President Thomas Klestil at the start of a state visit to Austria on Sunday.

The Chinese leader side-stepped questions about the human rights situation in his country at a brief news conference afterwards, saying Europeans did not know enough about what was happening there.

The United States is sponsoring a United Nations resolution criticizing China for a crackdown on pro-democracy activists that began last year.

Reading from a prepared statement, Jiang said China and the West had much in common in their attitudes, but there were also differences reflecting their varied histories and stages of economic development.

"We now live in a varied and colorful world," he said. "In Europe, knowledge about this



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, left, his Swiss counterpart Ruth Dreifuss, Swiss FM Flavio Cotti, and Swiss Economic Minister Pascal Couchepin, on the podium at a meeting with high ranking representatives of the Swiss economy on the third day of Zemin's visit in Switzerland in Basle.

faraway country of 1.2 billion people is insufficient."

Differences of opinion should not be allowed to hamper ties between China and the West, he added.

Klestil said he had raised the issue of human rights and the situation in Tibet with the Chinese leader but did not say what was discussed.

A handful of protesters near

the Austrian presidency building shouted slogans calling for freedom for Tibet and respect for human rights, but Jiang did not catch sight of them.

BLAIR, AHERN TO TURN UP HEAT ON N. IRELAND PEACE PLAN

BELFAST (AFP) — The British and Irish prime ministers are set for a week of troubled negotiations with Northern Ireland's political parties to goad implementation of last year's Good Friday peace accord.

Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Aherne of Ireland are expected in Belfast Monday with no date fixed for their departures.

The talks could turn into a marathon as heated as the one that led up to last year's accord, concluded in the early hours of April 10, 1998.

Blair and Aherne issued a joint call in the Observer and the Sunday Tribune for a "decisive move" towards peace, at a time

when "there is no viable alternative."

The progress to peace has been stalemated for months by a failure to agree a deal on the thorny issue of paramilitary disarmament.

Unionist Premier David Trimble has refused to share power with Sinn Fein until its military arm, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), begins to dismantle its arsenal of guns and explosives.

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams has repeatedly said that he cannot ask the IRA to hand over weapons in what, to the militia, would be tantamount to surrender.

Adams told the Observer that Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam

would overrule unionist opposition and form a government unilaterally if the two sides did not reach a deal by Friday.

Mowlam said last week if Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders failed to agree, she would take the first steps to imposing last year's peace settlement by summoning the province's new elected assembly on Wednesday or Thursday.

There has been a resurgence of paramilitary violence on both sides that culminated in the assassination of Rosemary Nelson, a prominent Roman Catholic lawyer murdered two weeks ago by Protestant renegade guerrillas.



Some 20,000 people march down Rio Branco Avenue in Rio de Janeiro during a demonstration against Brazil's economic policies and the 8 March, 1999 agreement signed between the IMF and the Brazilian government. The banner calls for the resignation of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

FIREMEN DOUSE LAST 'HOT SPOT' AFTER MONT BLANC TUNNEL TRAGEDY

CHAMONIX (AFP) — Firefighters on Sunday managed to douse the last "hot spot" in the Mont Blanc tunnel, five days after a catastrophic fire killed 40 people.

The death toll may rise, authorities cautioned as a special police team arrived to help identify those who died in the raging inferno.

"It is not impossible that more victims will be located under the debris of part of the tunnel roof, an area which we have not yet been able to check," said Commander Philippe Gaultier of the Haute-Savoie fire and rescue services.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze Friday, 52 hours after it broke out on a Belgian truck crossing the 11.5 kilometer tunnel that links France and Italy.

In all, 27 people were rescued by emergency services, 10 on the Italian side and 17 on the French side, after police reacted within "five minutes" of the fire starting.

Officials said Sunday that the last lingering hot spot several hundred meters long had been cooled to around 30 degrees Celsius and that powerful spotlights were being installed to enable investigators to examine the scene.

The temperature inside the tunnel reached 1,300 degrees Celsius at its hottest.

"Almost all that was left of the trucks was their axles, the asphalt is gone, melted, and the road is nothing but ashes and pieces of the roof which came off in whole slabs," a fire team commander said Saturday.

Forensic experts were struggling Sunday to identify victims who were burned beyond recognition. So far only five bodies had been positively identified, Bonneville prosecutor Bruno Charvet said.

"It is very hard work. I've never seen anything like it," a gendarme said. Motorists in at least 34 vehicles, 23 of them trucks, were incinerated when the fire turned the tunnel into a smoke-filled hell, officials said.

MADURESE REFUGEES HOLD MUSLIM PRAYERS IN INDONESIAN BORNEO

JAKARTA (AFP) — Thousands of Madurese settlers, who have fled violence and massacre in Indonesian Borneo, Sunday held solemn prayers at refugee centers to mark a Muslim holiday, officials said.

"Mass Eid Al-Adha prayers were held at two of the nine refugee holding centers here this morning," an official at the refugee coordinating center in the West Kalimantan capital, Pontianak, said by telephone.

Two cows were sacrificed at the Hajj dormitory, the main holding center in Pontianak and one of the two places where prayers were held, she said.

"Up to this morning, we have registered 20,782 refugees in our holding centers in Pontianak and the outlying Pontianak district," the official said.

Four holding camps in the Sambas district sheltered 7,001 people by noon Sunday, the district's refugee coordination center said in Singkawang, the main town.

Groups of Malays and Dayak armed with crude weapons have been hunting down and massacring Madurese across the Sambas district since violence broke out on March 15. Some 200 people have reportedly been killed.

Some have been decapitated or mutilated and there have been many reports of ritual cannibalism.

The tide of refugees fleeing the violence has continued with more than 4,000 refugees arriving in Pontianak from various holding centers across the Sambas district on Saturday.

Thousands more have sought refuge with family and friends across town.

Authorities have also launched a program to evacuate Madurese settlers from Sambas district to safe havens before taking them to Pontianak. Hundreds of other refugees held Eid Al-Adha prayers in the Sultan Syarif Abdurrahman sport stadium in Pontianak where they are being sheltered.

But unlike other cities in the world's largest Muslim-populated nation, the refugees were not decked out in their "Sunday best." Most had fled only in what they were wearing.

"When I fled the violence, I was still gathering grass with my wife, so what I have are only these short pants," said Asmad bin Mardin, 45, at the stadium after the prayers.

Asmad was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying although he was sad to leave everything behind, he was resigned to his fate.

"It has already happened, and one cannot change it. The most important thing is that God has saved me and my family from the violence," said Asmad, a father of four.

No violence was reported in the district on Saturday, an official at the Sambas district coordination post said.

And evacuation was temporarily halted Sunday due to the public holiday, he said.

Authorities have said evacuation efforts will continue until all Madurese settlers were safe in Pontianak and calm had returned. Some Madurese will also be resettled in new sites being sought outside the province.



Netanyahu listens to his Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon during the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, yesterday.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST CONTINUED NATO AIR STRIKES IN YUGOSLAVIA



French Communist party Secretary General, Robert Hue (R), and first secretary of the Workers General Confederation (CGT), Bernard Thibault (L) demonstrate with hundreds of people in Paris, 26 March 1999. They were protesting against NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia.

CAPITALS (AP) — Chanting and shouting crowds in many cities vented their fury Sunday at NATO's airstrikes on Yugoslavia, and anger turned to violence in Moscow, where gunmen attacked the American Embassy.

As many as 7,000 protesters in Sydney, Australia, smashed store windows and hurled objects at police, who called in the riot squad.

There, and in other cities around the world, demonstrators directed much of their anger at the United States after NATO stepped up the intensity of the bombing, which is aimed at forcing President Slobodan Milosevic to stop repression of ethnic Albanians.

The Sydney protesters, calling on Serbia to "defend Kosovo," waved Serbian flags and posters depicting U.S. President Bill Clinton as Adolf Hitler, and in the Australian city of Melbourne, more than 2,000 Serb supporters gathered outside the U.S. consulate-general to protest. Some hurled eggs at the building and listened to speeches denouncing the United States and NATO. The US Embassy in Moscow, which has been a focus of mounting protests since the NATO

attacks began Wednesday, came under attack on Sunday by gunmen armed with grenade launchers and assault rifles. Police guards drove them off with pistol fire and no one was reported hurt in the attack.

In Salzburg, Austria, about 3,500 people carried banners denouncing the airstrikes, waved Yugoslav flags and declared their support for Milosevic, the Austria Press Agency reported. The gathering, called by Yugoslav organizations in Austria, was described as one of the biggest in the old city since World War II.

In Budapest, Hungary, about 250 Serbs demonstrated in a square in the heart of downtown. A woman yelled in English: "Clinton did a big favor for Yugoslavia, America now unified the Yugo people. It's not a question of Milosevic, it's the question of the Serbian people!"

The gathering was nonviolent, but police broke it up as the demonstrators had failed to obtain permission in advance.

More than a thousand Serbs in Paris defied police orders and gathered in protest. Carrying signs saying "Chirac Murderer" and

"Clinton equals Hitler," they threw empty cans, eggs and fire crackers at riot police who surrounded the demonstration.

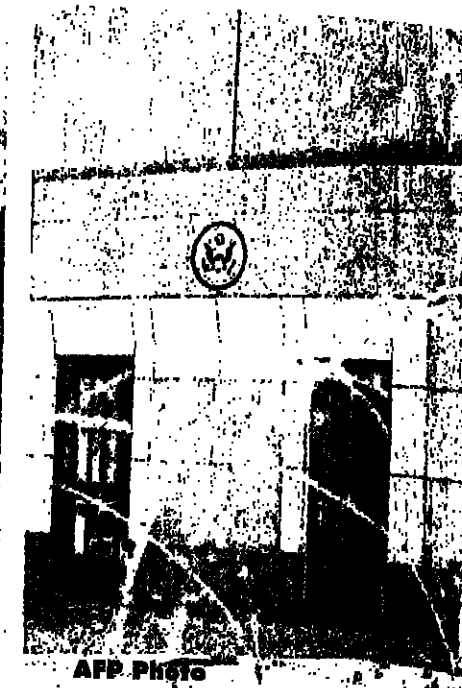
The protest broke up peacefully after nearly three hours.

In Podgorica, Montenegro, the Yugoslav republic that has supported the NATO action, angry demonstrators burned pictures of Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, accusing the government of their republic of cooperating with the "aggressor."

The crowd gathered in front of the U.S. cultural center in Podgorica carrying banners saying: "Yankes go home," and "Kosovo, the Serb's soul." "If this would have been the American Embassy, I would throw a bomb on it," a young man shouted.

In Bucharest, Romania, some 300 people walked in a religious procession as a tribute to the Serbs killed by NATO's airstrikes. They lit candles and held banners on which it was written, "Serb brothers, Romanian people love you."

In Madrid, prominent Yugoslav soccer players signed to Spanish teams joined a protest outside



The entrance of the US embassy in Cyprus and its emblem are covered with marks of eggs, tomato and paint thrown by angry demonstrators.

Pedrag Mijatovic, who plays for Real Madrid, wrapped himself in a Yugoslav flag and said that he and his compatriots would not play "until our families emerge from their cellars," the private news agency Europa Press reported.

The protest was called by the United Left, the only major Spanish political party to oppose NATO strikes on Yugoslavia.

On the Greek island of Crete, police said dozens of protesters staged a small demonstration outside a U.S. Navy support base in Suda Bay. There were minor clashes. Small demonstrations also took place outside NATO bases in northern and central Greece, and minor clashes also occurred at a small rally in the port of Piraeus.

In Italy, where NATO's aircraft are based, as many as 500 demonstrators banging drums and chanting "Assassin!" (killers) had marched on Saturday from the town square of nearby Gioia del Colle to an air base where 280 British airmen are stationed.

Local police and armed riot police controlled the marchers.

INDIA-RUSSIA-CHINA AXIS HINTED AT AFTER KOSOVO STRIKES

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Sunday said India was examining a possible alliance with Russia and China following NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia.

"Such a possibility is being considered," the Press Trust of India quoted the Prime Minister as saying during a visit to the northern city of Lucknow.

Vajpayee said member countries of the non-aligned movement were also discussing the "one-sided action" by the United States against Yugoslavia, a founder of the non-aligned grouping.

"India believes in and respects the sovereignty of all countries and opposes the use of force ... as such actions are contrary to the UN charter and violate the independence and sovereignty of a country," the Prime Minister said.

India on Thursday called for an immediate end to the air strikes, saying they undermined the authority of the entire United Nations system.

BELGRADE PROTESTS BOMBING WITH ROCK MUSIC

BELGRADE (AFP) — Defying air-raid alerts, more than 10,000 Belgrade residents gathered on the central city square Sunday for a concert protesting the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

Although an alert was on, hundreds poured along the main streets for a concert organized by the Belgrade union of rock musicians and supported by the municipal council.

Most of them carried big target signs with the motto: "Don't miss me!"

The organizers, who brought five top Belgrade rock bands for the 90-minute concert, said similar gatherings would be held every day at noon.

POLICE FOIL ATTACK ON US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW (AP) — Gunmen armed with grenade launchers and an assault rifle attacked the U.S. Embassy on Sunday, but were driven off by police guards firing pistols. No one was hurt in the attack apparently linked to protests against NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

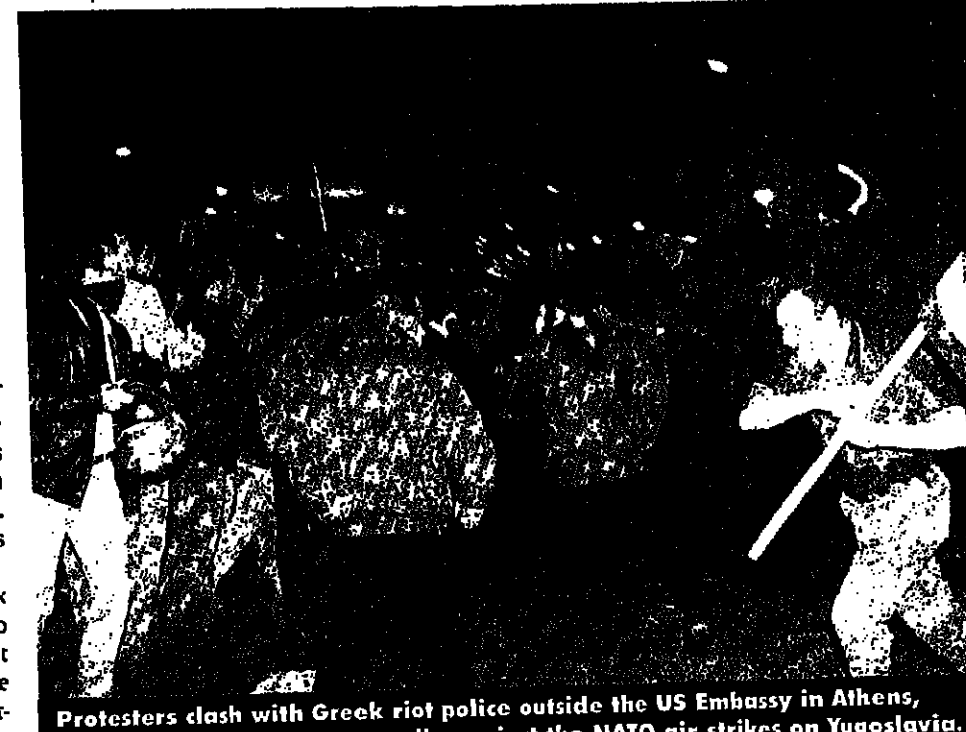
Several bullets hit the embassy, but caused little damage.

A white jeep pulled up in front of the embassy and two of the occupants aimed grenade launchers at the building, as shown in film of the incident on the NTV television network. Police who saw the attackers opened fire with pistols.

One attacker in a ski mask and camouflage fatigues, who had got out to aim a rocket launcher, jumped back in the jeep when police bullets shattered one of the vehicle's windows. One of the attackers then opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle, sending police and bystanders diving for cover.

The two rocket launchers were left on the road as the jeep sped away. It was not clear if they had failed to work or if the attackers dropped them when police opened fire.

An embassy spokesman, who



Protesters clash with Greek riot police outside the US Embassy in Athens, yesterday, during a protest rally against the NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia.

The rally was organized by several political parties' youth groups.

declined to be named, said nobody in the embassy had been injured, but declined to comment further.

The jeep had been stolen, said police, who would not confirm Russian news reports that it was a police vehicle. The jeep later was found abandoned near the embassy.

Scores of police, including security troops with automatic weapons and members of the FSB, the Russian intelligence service, ringed the embassy after the attack. The embassy is located on the Garden Ring, one of Moscow's main streets.

POPE SAYS PEACE WILL TRIUMPH OVER HATRED IN BALKANS

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said on Sunday that brotherhood and understanding would prevail over hatred in the Balkans and that it was never too late to negotiate for peace.

Celebrating a Palm Sunday mass in Saint Peter's Basilica, the Pope said that olive branches adorning the vast Roman Catholic church could serve as symbols of the peace which the people of the Balkans sought.

"I would like to thank the (southern Italian) region of Puglia for the olive plants that adorn St. Peter's Square and which we are using for this morning's celebra-

tion," the 79-year-old Polish pontiff said.

"These olive branches can be a symbol of the peace that the people of the Balkans are looking for."

"In these days we pray with fervor to the Prince of Peace to present himself to us unarmed and thus serve as an inspiration to those who take up weapons," the Pope said in a speech repeatedly interrupted by loud applause from a packed congregation.

"Brotherhood and understanding will prevail over the forces of

hatred in that part of Europe (the Balkans) too."

"The Pope is with the suffering people and cries out to all: It is always the hour of peace. It is never too late to meet and to negotiate."

The Vatican said on Saturday it was working intensively to end what it termed "a situation of war" and was confident its diplomatic efforts would soon bear fruit. Pope John Paul's most recent trip to the Balkans was to Croatia in October last year, when he appealed for an end to the then escalating Kosovo crisis.

MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THROWN AT US EMBASSY IN COPENHAGEN

COPENHAGEN (DPA) — Serb demonstrators hurled molotov cocktails and pavement stones at the U.S. embassy during a Saturday night protest rally, Danish police said Sunday.

The police said that some windows were smashed in the incident.

They said a small group of protesters were responsible for the attack which came towards the end of a demonstration staged by some 2,000 people at the embassy.

All the embassies of the larger NATO countries in Copenhagen have been put under stepped up police protection.

INDIAN PREMIER LABELS NATO ATTACK 'DEPLORABLE'

NEW DELHI (DPA) — Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Sunday said the NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia were "deplorable".

Speaking to newsmen in his parliamentary constituency of Lucknow, in northern Uttar Pradesh State, Vajpayee said the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was contemplating intervention in the matter.

The Indian premier refused to admit that the Yugoslav issue could be equated to the Kashmir problem. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since they became independent from the British colonial rule in 1947.

Yugoslavia along with India and Egypt is a founding member of the NAM movement which came into being in the late 1950s during the Cold War to act as a buffer between the United States and Soviet Union. It has now over 100 countries as members.

It was founded by India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia and Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser.

DUTCH MINISTER SAYS RUSSIAN ROLE PIVOTAL IN KOSOVO

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Jozias van Aartsen said on Sunday that the Russians have a key role to play in resolving the conflict over Kosovo.

Russia's stance is pivotal, Van Aartsen said in a Dutch television interview. "The Duma speaks heroic language, but it is in the interest of the Russians that there is peace in the Balkans... a man like (Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny) Primakov is aware of that," he said.

He also said the door to the Rambouillet accord should stay open to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leaders have signed a peace accord for the Serbian province, but Milosevic has refused to follow suit.

Van Aartsen's comments followed an announcement from NATO headquarters in Brussels that the alliance would from now on direct its air strikes at Serb ground forces in Kosovo. "The foreign minister said: now was not the time to send NATO ground troops into Yugoslavia. This would require months of preparations," he said.



Bangladesh Tornado kills two and leaves thousands homeless

DHAKA — A tornado tore through scores of villages in northern Bangladesh, killing at least two people and leaving thousands of villagers homeless, officials said Sunday.

The 20-minute twister late Friday blew down thousands of mud huts, uprooted trees and knocked down telephone and electricity poles in Panchagarh district, 344 kilometers north of Dhaka, the capital.

Rescue workers recovered bodies of a man and a woman from the debris of a collapsed house at Samtara village near the Indian border, local officials said by telephone on condition of anonymity.

Dhaka's Ittefaq newspaper reported that nearly 100,000 people were left homeless just three days before Bangladeshis celebrate the Islamic Eid-al-Adha festival on Monday.

Relief workers distributed rice and dried food to the homeless. Bangladesh, a delta nation of 125 million people, is hit by floods and cyclones that kill thousands of people every year — Associated Press.

Bomb defused during rush hour in Indian train station

NEW DELHI — Police discovered a large bomb in a Hindu holy town Sunday, timed to explode during rush hour on a railway platform. The train station was evacuated, but the bomb exploded while police were trying to defuse it, wounding six policemen, domestic news agencies reported.

The bomb-disposal squad removed the eight kilogram device from the station in the town of Ayodhya before it exploded. Three officers were reported to be in serious condition, United News of India said.

The news agency reported Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was scheduled to visit Ayodhya Sunday, but it was not clear if the bomb was linked to his visit. Ayodhya is the town where a Hindu mob razing a medieval mosque in 1992, setting off nationwide Hindu-Muslim rioting that killed 2,000 people.

The police chief of Faizabad district, where Ayodhya is located, said the bomb was so powerful it could have blown up an area of about 200 meters. Ayodhya is 550 kilometers east of the Indian capital New Delhi.

The bomb was discovered in an abandoned bag on the platform, by a vendor, who immediately informed the police — Associated Press.

S. Leone government says Sankoh can meet other rebels in Togo

FREETOWN — Sierra Leone's jailed rebel leader Foday Sankoh will be allowed to meet other commanders of his forces face-to-face after April 18 in Togo, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has stated.

Kabbah announced the decision to let rebel leaders active in the field to meet Sankoh, who was sentenced to death in October on treason charges, in a radio and television address late Saturday.

Direct talks among field commanders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and its founding leader, Sankoh, have formed a key demand since rebel forces invaded the west African's capital, Freetown, in January.

Kabbah did not disclose where, in Togo, the talks would be held, or how the thorny issue of a UN-imposed travel ban against RUF members would be dealt with — Agence France Presse.

Maoists kill Hindu nationalist in India

NEW DELHI — Maoist guerrillas shot dead a Hindu nationalist politician in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the United News of India reported Sunday.

Mysalah Goud was gunned down by members of the outlawed People's War Group at his village in Nalgonda district overnight Saturday, the news agency said.

Goud was a local leader of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian nationalist party), which heads India's ruling coalition — Agence France Presse.

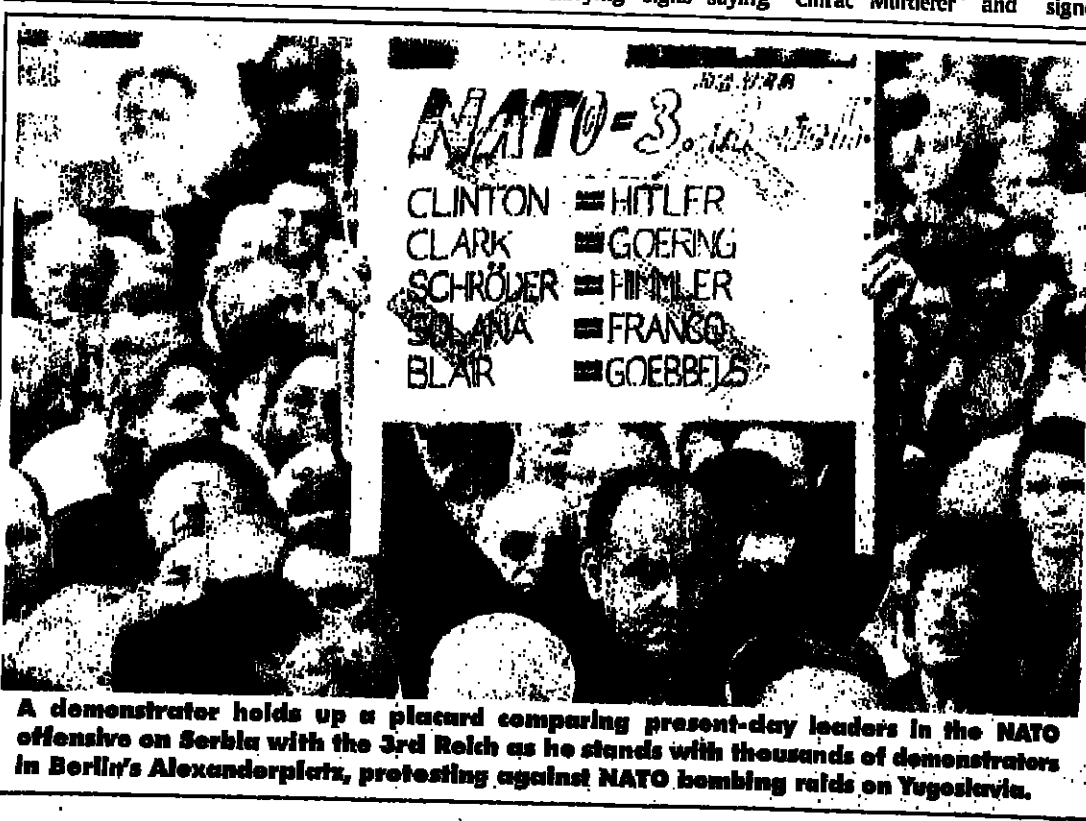
Philippines seizes Malaysian fishing boat

PUEBLO PRINCESA — The Philippine navy has seized a Malaysian fishing boat and its 50 crew for allegedly fishing inside Philippine waters, a navy official said on Sunday.

The Malaysian-registered boat, with 39 Malaysians and 11 Filipinos on board, was apprehended two days ago off the southern tip of Palawan Island, about 450 km southwest of Manila, the official said.

A navy task force confiscated 100 kg of fish from the boat and a government panel was studying what charges to file against the crew, he said.

The Philippines and Malaysia share a common maritime border and there have been periodic incidents of alleged intrusions by fishermen from the two countries into each other's territory — Reuters.



A demonstrator holds up a placard comparing present-day leaders in the NATO offensive on Serbia with the 3rd Reich as he stands with thousands of demonstrators in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, protesting against NATO bombing raids on Yugoslavia.

AMMAN STOCKS

ACCESS 4646868

Thursday, 25-03-99

Company	CLOSING	CHANGE
BANKS		
ARAB BK	220.000	0.00
NTL BK	1.420	0.00
BK OF JORDAN	1.280	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.440	0.07
THE HOUSING BK	2.580	0.02
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.570	-0.01
JO. INVS & FIN. BK	1.330	0.00
BEIT EL MAL	0.590	-0.01
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.520	-0.01

BANKS INDEX	288.340	point = +0.12%
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INSURANCE		
JO. FRENCH INS	2.450	-0.13
INSURANCE INDEX	124.400	point = -0.65%

SERVICES		
ELECTRIC POWER	1.880	0.00
PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	0.880	0.04
AL-RAT	7.150	0.05
COMMODORE	1.070	-0.03
AL-ZARQA FOR EDU	0.870	-0.01
ARAB INT'L FOR INVS. & ED	1.830	-0.01
UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.050	0.02

SERVICES INDEX	111.680	point = +0.02%
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INDUSTRY		
CEMENT	3.640	0.01
PHOSPHATE	2.380	-0.02
ARAB POTASH	4.300	0.01
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	0.00
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.090	0.00
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.880	-0.01
NTL STEEL	0.710	0.03
DAR AL DAWA	6.100	0.00
MIDDLE EAST COMPLEX	0.880	0.00
JO. STEEL	1.010	0.00
ARAB ALUMINIUM	1.880	0.08
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.390	0.00
PAPER CONVERTING	0.700	-0.01
PETRO-CHEMICAL	0.230	0.00
CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL	1.150	0.02
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	0.970	0.00
NTL CABLE	0.810	0.00
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM	1.260	0.01
KAWTHER	0.610	-0.02
EL-ZAY	1.220	-0.02
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.570	-0.01
FOOD FACTORIES	0.950	-0.05
IND. RESOURCES	0.470	0.02
NTL ALUMINIUM	0.820	0.01

INDUSTRY INDEX	97.400	point = +0.12%
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PARALLEL		
EXPORT BK 75%	0.940	0.00
JO. INT'L INS	0.890	0.03
UNION INVS. CORP	0.800	0.00
ARAB FINANCIAL INVS	0.820	0.02
AL - EKBAL	0.800	0.00
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.480	0.00
AL DAWLAH	0.710	-0.03
ARAB INVESTORS	1.110	-0.02
ARAB INT'L TRADE	0.180	0.00
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.340	-0.01
CENTURY	1.180	-0.02
NAMICO	0.170	0.01
TEXTILE & PLASTIC	0.270	-0.01
MIDDLE EAST PHAR	0.620	0.00
UNION TOBACCO	4.180	0.20
AL-RAZI	0.640	0.03
INT'L CERAMIC	0.380	-0.01
NUTRI DAR	0.780	0.02

GRAND INDEX	182.71	point = +0.11%
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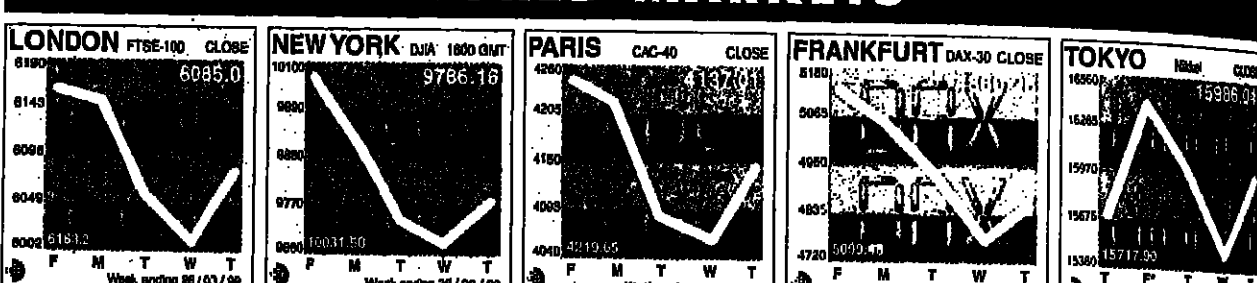
TOURISTS' DINARS

CURRENCY	ASK	BID
US DOLLAR	0.7080	0.7100
G.BRITAIN STERLING	1.1680	1.1618
GERMANY MARK	0.3937	0.3957
SWITZERLAND FRANC	0.4830	0.4854
FRANCE FRANC	0.1174	0.1180
JAPAN YEN*	0.5984	0.6014
HOLLAND GUILDER	0.3494	0.3512
ITALY LIRA*	0.0877	0.0400
EURO	0.7701	0.7739

DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES

CURRENCY	1M	3M	6M	1Y
US\$	4.5600	4.6200	4.6300	4.9000
GBP	5.1900	5.1200	5.0800	5.0800
EURO	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
DM	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
CHF	1.0000	1.0938	1.1563	1.3128
JPY	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

WORLD MARKETS



REGIONAL CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	JORDAN	SAUDI	YEMEN	BAHRAIN	OMAN	QATAR	KUWAIT	EGYPT	US
JORDAN DINAR	1.0000	0.1888	0.1927	1.8780	1.8387	0.1945	2.3283	0.2077	0.7080
SAUDI RIYAL	5.2977	1.0000	1.0209	9.9491	9.7411	1.0302	12.3240	1.1006	3.7808
U.A.E. DIRHAM	6.1893	0.9798	1.0000	9.7454	9.5416	1.0091	12.0716	1.0781	3.8740
BAHRAIN DINAR	0.5325	0.1005	0.1026	1.0000	0.9791	0.1035	1.2387	0.1108	0.3770
OMAN RIYAL	0.5439	0.1027	0.1048	1.0214	1.0000	0.1058	1.2652	0.1130	0.3881
QATAR RIYAL	5.1427	0.9707	0.9910	9.6578	9.4589	1.0000	11.9832	1.0684	3.6410
KUWAIT DINAR	0.4299	0.0811	0.0828	0.8073	0.7804	0.0836	1.0000	0.0893	0.3044
EGYPT POUND	4.8136	0.9088	0.9278	9.0398	8.8508	0.9360	11.1978	1.0000	3.4080
LEBANON LIRA	21.2147	4.0045	4.0882	38.8408	39.0079	4.1252	49.3511	4.4073	15.8200
US DOLLAR	1.4124	0.2866	0.2722	2.6525	2.5971	0.2746	3.2687	0.2934	1.0000
G.BRITAIN STERLING	0.8623	0.1628	0.1682	1.6194	1.5865	0.1677	2.0069	0.1791	0.8163
GERMANY MARK	2.8379	0.4790	0.4891	4.7680	4.6864	0.4935	5.9037	0.5272	1.7988
SWITZERLAND FRANC	2.0661	0.3900	0.3981	3.8801	3.7990	0.4018	4.8063	0.4292	1.4028
FRANCE FRANC	8.5109	1.8065	1.8401	15.9833	15.8491	1.8550	19.7988	1.7681	6.8287
JAPAN YEN*	1.8702	0.3163	0.3219	3.1368	3.0710	0.3248	3.8853	0.3470	1.1825
HOLLAND GUILDER	2.8593	0.5397	0.5510	5.3698	5.2575	0.5560	6.8516	0.6940	2.8244
SWEDEN KRONA	11.8405	2.1973	2.2432	21.8807	21.4037	2.2635	27.0790	2.4183	8.2415
ITALY LIRA*	25.1234	4.7423	4.8414	47.1814	46.1940	4.8853	58.4438	5.2193	17.7874
BELGIUM FRANC	92.3432	9.8803	10.0868	98.2997	96.2446	10.1782	121.7844	10.8741	37.0590
AUSTRALIA DOLLAR	2.2194	0.4189	0.4277	4.1680	4.0809	0.4318	5.1629	0.4611	1.5713
GREEK DRACHMA	4.2133	0.7953	0.8119	7.9125	7.7470	0.8193	9.8012	0.8763	2.9830
CYPRUS POUND	0.7616	0.1419	0.1448	1.4114	1.3819	0.1461	1.7483	0.1681	0.5321
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	17.8532	3.3700	3.4404	33.5281	32.8272	3.4716	41.5315	3.7089	12.8401
CANADA DOLLAR	2.1328	0.4026	0.4110	4.0053	3.9216	0.4147	4.9814	0.4431	1.5100
EURO	1.2874	0.2448	0.2500	2.4364	2.3865	0.2523	3.0180	0.2686	0.9165

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	US	G.BRITAIN	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	FRANCE	JAPAN	HOLLAND	ITALY	EURO
US DOLLAR	1.0000	1.6380	0.5585	0.8836	0.1860	0.8457	0.4940	5.6220	1.0887
G.BRITAIN STERLING	0.6105	1.0000	0.3398	0.4174	0.1013	0.5163	0.3016	3.4322	0.8647
GERMANY MARK	1.7988	2.9432	1.0000	1.2283	0.2982	1.5195	0.8878	10.1015	1.9582
SWITZERLAND FRANC	1.4628	2.3961	0.8141	1.0000	0.2428	1.2370	0.7226	8.2238	1.5928
FRANCE FRANC	6.0257	9.8701	3.3536	4.1193	1.0000	5.0957	2.9765	33.8782	6.8602
JAPAN YEN*	118.2800	193.8935	65.8114	80.8381	19.6243	1.0000	58.4124	684.7984	128.7388
HOLLAND GUILDER	2.0244	3.3160	1.1267	1.3839	0.3380	1.7120	1.0000	11.3811	2.2040
SWEDEN KRONA	8.2415	13.4996	4.5868	5.6341	1.3677	6.9896	4.0711	46.3334	8.9728
ITALY LIRA*	17.7874	29.1358	9.8995	12.1598	2.9519	15.0422	8.7865	1.0000	18.3651
BELGIUM FRANC	37.0590	60.7026	20.6250	25.3343	6.1502	31.3395	18.3082	208.3441	40.3461
AUSTRALIA DOLLAR	1.5713	2.5739	0.8745	1.0742	0.2608	1.3288	0.7762	8.8340	1.7107
GREEK DRACHMA	2.9830	4.8862	1.6602	2.0392	0.4950	2.5228	1.4735	16.7703	3.2478
CYPRUS POUND	0.5321	0.8716	0.2961	0.3638	0.0883	0.4500	0.2628	2.9914	0.5793
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	12.8401	20.7045	7.0348	8.6410	2.0977	10.6893	6.2439	71.0621	13.7813
CANADA DOLLAR	1.5100	2.4734	0.8404	1.0323	0.2806	1.2770	0.7469	8.4892	1.8438
EURO	0.9165	1.5048	0.5112	0.6279	0.1624	0.7768	0.4537	5.1639	1.0000

ARAB CAPITAL MARKETS

ARAB INS GROUP	0.84	+0.01
ARAB INT. INS.	0.083	+0.008
AHLI COML. BANK	0.410	
A.B.G. - \$-	6.25	+0.10
BAH INSURANCE	0.274	
BANK BAH + KWT	0.222	+0.002
BAH COML FALT	0.244	
BAH HOTEL	0.200	-0.002
B. DUTY FREE	0.500	-0.005
BAH MILLS	0.175	-0.002
BAH ISLAM. BANK	0.272	+0.012
BAH ISLAMIC INS	0.298	+0.018
BAH + KWT INS.	0.400	
BAH INT. BANK	0.150	+0.001
BAH LEISURE CO.	0.098	+0.001
BAH MID E. BANK	0.158	+0.001
BAH MAR. + M. INT	0.472	
BAH SAUDI BANK	0.151	+0.002
BAH SHIP R ENG	0.520	+0.020
BAH TOURISM	0.136	-0.002
BAH TELECOM	0.555	+0.005
DELMON POULTRY	0.178	+0.012
FAYSAL ISLAM - \$-	2.08	+0.08
TRAFFCO	0.302	
UNION GULF INS.	0.106	-0.003
NATL. IMP+EXP	0.610	-0.005

AHLIA DETERGENT		
AHLIA INSURANCE		
N/A		
AL AMAL IND		
ANWAR IND & TRAD		
BATINAH DAIRY		
ALIANH HOS BK	0.930	+0.060
BATNAH HOTELS		
BRAIMI HOTEL		
KHWR DEV SVC		
RAWDAH QUARRIES		
SALLAN FOOD IND		
ALSAWADI RES	1.15	+0.05
AREEJ VEG OILS		
BANDER RANDAH QU		
BAHRAIN INTL BK		
BK MCT AHLI OM	2.950	+0.050
BK OM BAH & KUW		
COMM BK OMAN	1.400	+0.040
CONST MATERIALS		
COM STAT IND		
DHOFAR BVGS CO		
DOFAR CATTLEFEED	1.850	+0.030
DHOFAR INVST DEV	2.000	+0.100
DHFR MARBLE GRAN		
DHOFAR INSURANCE		
DHOFAR TOURISM		
FINANCIAL SERV		
GULF HOTELS OMAN		
GLF INV SERV		

AUDI BANQUE	28.2500
BQ. EUROPEENNE	
BOU KHALIL MKTS	
BQ LIBANAISE COM	
BANK OF BEIRUT	7.5625
BYBLOS BANK	2.6250
ETERNIT	
LEB. HDGS FUND	
RYMCO	
STE CIM BLANCS B	
STE CIM BLANCS N	
STE CIM LIBANAIS	
SOLIDERE A	8.0000
SOLIDERE B	8.3750
UNICERAMIC B C	2.0000

NBAD INDEX	3731.63
COMM. BANK OF DUBAI	89
NAT. BANK OF SHARJAH	15
EMIRATES INT. BANK	37
NAT. BANK OF RASALKHAIMAH	30
NAT. BANK OF UMM AL QUWAIN	290
ABU DHABI COMM. BANK	595
INVEST BANK	33
NAT. BANK OF FUJAIRAH	300
NAT. BANK OF ABUDHABI	700
DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK	20
NAT. BANK OF DUBAI	980
BANK OF SHARJAH	29
COMM. BANK INTERNATIONAL	8
UNION NAT. BANK	45
ABU DHABI ISLAMIC BANK	24
MASHREQ BANK	1300
UNITED ARAB BANK	38
FIRST GULF BANK	6
E T I S A L A T	1735
ABU DHABI NAT. HOTELS CO	165
NAT. MARINE DREDGING	600
UNION PROPERTIES CO.	41
ABU DHABI AVIATION	620
ABU DHABI NAT. FOODSTUFF CO.	38
DUBAI INVESTMENT CO.	15
ABU DHABI SHIP BUILDING CO.	30
E M A R C O.	29
OASIS INT. LEASING CO.	20
T A B R E E D	11
J U L P H A R	4
PRIME BUILDING TRADING EST.	9
OMAN INSURANCE CO.	990
ALAIN AHLIA INSURANCE CO.	1370
AL DAFRAH INSURANCE CO.	640
ABU DHABI NAT. INSURANCE CO	115
THE EMIRATE INSURANCE CO	86
AL KHAZNEH INSURANCE CO.	146
AL BUHAIRAH INSURANCE CO.	15
DUBAI NAT. INSURANCE CO.	5
UNION INSURANCE CO.	10

WTO LEADERSHIP BATTLE GOES ON

GENEVA (R) — Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi was on Saturday officially reported to be holding onto a lead over New Zealander Michael Moore in the contest for the top post in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

But some trade diplomats said there were signs the candidacy of Moore, a former prime minister and trade minister, was gaining momentum and that the outcome which officials hope to announce on March 31 remained wide open.

With the United States firmly backing Moore, according to the envoys, a final decision could hinge on shifts within the 15-member European Union and especially on whether France switched to the New Zealander's camp.

Tanzania's WTO ambassador Ali Mchumo, in charge of finding which of the two would be most widely accepted as director-general by the 134 member states, told a meeting of its ruling General Council Supachai still had 'a leading level' of support.

But there had been no significant change since mid-week when he told envoys that Moore was close behind.

In an indication that there could still be deadlock, he said some countries had made clear that they would have difficulties in accepting one or the other candidate,

although none had said they would veto either.

The report by Mchumo, the Council chairman, prompted Pakistan, Egypt and Cuba to call for a quick decision on appointing Supachai to replace current WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero who steps down at the end of April.

Diplomats said Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram argued that it was 'supposed to be the turn of a developing country' to take the helm of the four-year-old body which is facing a crucial test over the coming months.

The new director-general will have to steer the body through to the launch of a new round of trade liberalization talks, set for Seattle in December, while seeking to calm growing concern in many countries over the effect of the free trade agenda the WTO is seen to embody.

The organization's two chiefs since it was launched in 1995 have been Europeans, as were the four heads of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which served as world trade watchdog from 1948 to 1994.

But many emerging economies, as well as richer powers, argue that the choice should not pit developing against industrialized countries but should be made on the basis of who would do the job best.

Trade sources said this argument was voiced at Saturday's meeting by Zimbabwe, which insisted that North-South divisions should be avoided because the eventual winner would, under the WTO's consensus system, be the director-general of all members.

Diplomats say eight members of the EU, which has not found a common position, support Supachai while seven, including current president Germany, back Moore, a former trade union activist and New Zealand Labor Party leader.

Although France has said it supports the Thai, some envoys say the Socialist government has in fact left its options open and could finally decide to back Moore, who has been lobbying in Paris over the past three days.

'If the French were to switch, that would probably move a number of francophone African countries into Moore's camp, as well as perhaps two or three more EU members, and that would be crucial,' said one trade diplomat.

Two former trade ministers originally in the race Canada's Roy MacLaren and Morocco's Hassan Abouyoub failed to gather enough support to make their candidacies viable.

TV CHANNELS SCRAMBLE FOR TRIAL COVERAGE

THE OBSERVER

GLASGOW — Television companies are embroiled in a scramble to cash in on the trial of the two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

The BBC is battling with ITV, Sky and American media giants hoping to make tens of millions of pounds out of the 'trial of the century', which is expected to begin next month in Holland. The bidding war will infuriate relatives of the 270 victims.

A global audience of up to 100 million is expected to watch Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah being led into the dock after 10 years under house arrest in Tripoli. The two alleged Libyan security agents are charged with the biggest mass murder in British and US history.

Whoever wins the battle will make tens of millions of pounds selling the pictures around the world. Industry insiders say the competition is ferocious, even before judges have decided whether to allow full live coverage or opt for edited highlights.

'The Lockerbie trial is bigger than anything we have ever seen,' one British TV executive said. 'It may not have the celebrity status of O.J. Simpson but when the prosecutor reads out the names of the victims, people all over the world will stop and watch. A lot of companies are treading carefully because they do not want to be criticized for making money out of tragedy, but they are all dreaming of the syndication fees.'

The BBC is leading the pack and has told Scottish prosecutors it wants exclusive rights. Alistair Bonnington, the BBC's Glasgow-based solicitor, said: 'As a public service broadcaster we have a reputation for accuracy and efficiency and we would hope the court would take our application seriously. The tragedy took place in Scotland, the court will be a Scottish court, and people in this country have a right to see proceedings for themselves.'

Bonnington insisted the BBC was motivated by the need for 'open and transparent justice' rather than lucrative distribution contracts. 'We genuinely have not thought about money. I suppose if some of the pictures were syndicated then there would be a fee.'

But insiders say corporation chiefs are privately boasting they would make millions of pounds from the trial, funding the construction of much-needed new headquarters in London and Scotland.

Scottish judges have led the way in opening up courts to TV companies; the first British trial to be televised was in Glasgow. Although the three judges who will hear the Lockerbie case have not been named, TV chiefs are hopeful that because there is no jury, 'gavel to gavel' live coverage will be approved.

The most senior Scottish judge, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, will make the final decision.

As well as the BBC, ITV is bidding for rights. Scott Ferguson, controller of Glasgow-based Scottish Television, said: 'We've broadcast from Scottish courts before and we are eager to hear what the arrangements are for this trial.' Sky, which has made its reputation covering key events live, is also in the running.

A spokeswoman said: 'We are interested. Who isn't?' The big American networks NBC, ABC, CNN and CBS are bidding too. A spokeswoman for CBS said: 'This trial will be followed very closely in the States. Sure, we'd love to get the feed.'

BY JOHN ARLIDGE

IMF CHIEF ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdessus arrived in Russia on Saturday for more talks on unlocking new loans for the crisis-hit nation.

'We will try to achieve a solid and credible agreement which would assist your country in such difficult circumstances,' Camdessus told reporters after arriving at the airport where he was met by Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov.

Camdessus was visiting Russia after Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov cancelled a trip to Washington on the eve of NATO air strikes against Moscow's traditional ally, Yugoslavia.

Russia hopes the IMF will approve its economic program and provide it with a life-line loan of almost five billion dollars to repay what it owes the Fund itself.

Approval of the program would ease talks with a range of other foreign creditors as Russia tries to lighten its \$140 billion debt burden after last August's financial crisis.

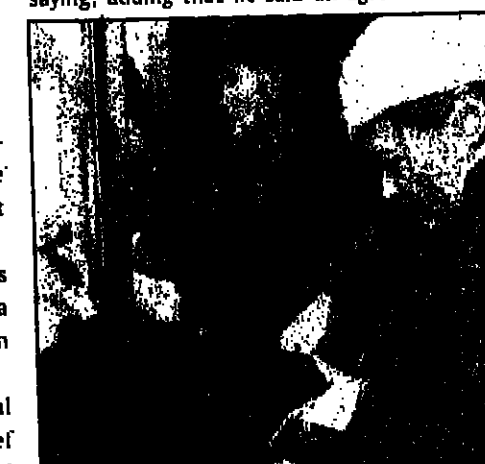
As well as talks with Zadornov and central bank head Viktor Geraschenko, the IMF chief is expected to meet Primakov on Saturday and possibly on Sunday.

More talks between the IMF and the govern-

ment are expected on Monday and local news agencies said a meeting the same day between Camdessus and President Boris Yeltsin was not excluded.

Zadornov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying the two sides' positions had become closer.

'We will do everything so that the talks are successful,' the agency quoted the minister as saying, adding that he said an agreement was



Bakery is a luxury item

possible in the three days Camdessus was due to spend in Russia.

He said the government would present to parliament an amendment to delay a cut in the VAT rate to next January 1 from the currently scheduled July 1, 1999. The IMF has been worried about the planned reduction in this key source of revenue.

Hurdles to an agreement have also been the size of Russia's primary surplus, which excludes debt repayments, although Russian officials have said the Fund had recently reduced the size of the surplus it required for more loans.

Despite the bitter row with Western nations over Yugoslavia, Russia has been careful to say that it does not want to be isolated from the international community.

Camdessus was quoted by Itar-Tass news agency as saying the situation with Yugoslavia would not affect his talks.

Both Zadornov and Geraschenko were quoted as saying that agreement with the IMF would also support the battered ruble, which has fallen some 75 percent since the previous government was forced to stop defending it amid last year's crisis.

BULGARIAN BOOKSELLERS TAKE TO THE STREETS

SOFIA (DPA) — Bulgaria's booksellers are nothing if not resourceful and their response to the country's economic crisis has been to take to the streets of the capital Sofia.

Bulgaria, the theme country at this year's Leipzig Book Fair, which opened in the German city Thursday, once had a flourishing conventional book trade.

But the hardship of post-communist life has taken its toll and most of the book stores that were once a prominent feature have given way to boutiques, shoe shops and cafes.

Many of the bookshops found themselves without premises after owners fled for the return of property seized by the communists.

'The return of many businesses to their former owners ejected the book trade onto the street,' said Raymond Wagenstein, owner of the successful Colibri publishing house.

Rents for shops are now so high that hardly any bookshop owners can afford them and so now 'the sale of books in Bulgaria depends on the weather,' said Wagenstein.

'Whenever it rains or snows no books are sold.'

Zlaweykow Square in the old quarter of Sofia may be a colorful open-air mecca for bookworms but publisher Wagenstein thinks the plight of booksellers in Bulgaria is sad.

There soon won't be any bookshops left in Bulgaria, he lamented since authorities in the country are not really interested.

In Sofia, a city of 1.2 million people, there are only 20 book stores, two of which belong to Colibri, and only 100 book outlets in the country as a whole.

According to Wagenstein, 'excessive' value added tax of 20 percent has turned the book into a luxury article for the well-off. In 1991 around 51 percent of Bulgarians bought books. Last year the figure stood at 14 percent.

The sales slump comes at a time when the open-air bookstands have never been more attractive to browse around. They are certainly an improvement on the communist days when bookshops sold only works emasculated by censorship and in joyless surroundings.

Readers who enjoy rummaging can find all manner of works from world class literature to comics on the trestle tables that appear on the streets every morning.

Bulgarian translations of artist Salvador Dali's work are probably of minority interest only while the esoterically-inclined might go for books by Bulgarian author Paulo Cuelho.

'For ten years now Bulgaria has had a free book market,' said Wagenstein. The change made itself first felt in cultural affairs and soon trickled down to grassroots level.

'We don't want money from the state to help us through,' said Wagenstein. 'We just don't want them to get in our way.' A dire distribution network remains a problem. After the communist state-run network fell apart there was no new one to take its place.

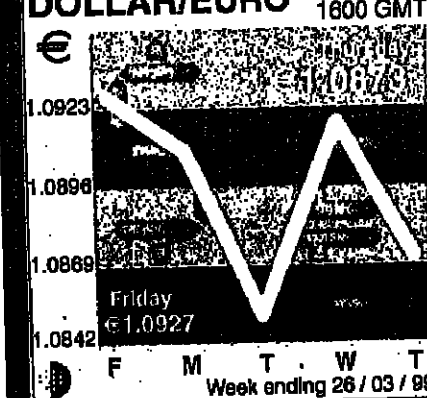
'State policy on publishing and the book trade varies between the incompetent and indifference,' said Wagenstein, with the result that 90 percent of books in Bulgaria are now sold on the streets.

Despite the difficulties there are 1,800 publishing houses in Bulgaria although only around 150 of them manage to put out books on a regular basis.

They adjust to financial hard times by constantly scaling down print runs. In the years 1991/92 Colibri might have published a run of up to 100,000 for a bestseller. Now the company would be unlikely to produce more than 4,000 copies of a book in the same category.

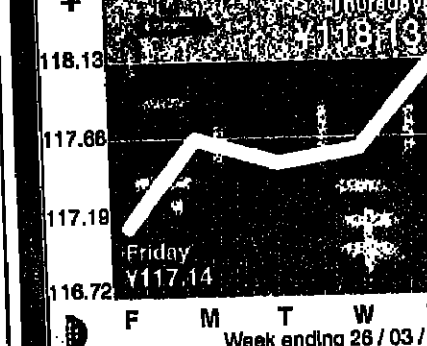
Fortunately for domestic publishers Bulgarians have a healthy appetite for reading. Works translated from other languages dominate the catalogues but to ensure Bulgarian authors get a fair crack of the whip 15 publishing houses have teamed up to form an association called 'The Indigenous Book'. Its head, Luko Sakhariev also has a simple sales philosophy. 'Bulgarian books only remain unsold if they are not offered for sale.'

DOLLAR/EURO London 1600 GMT



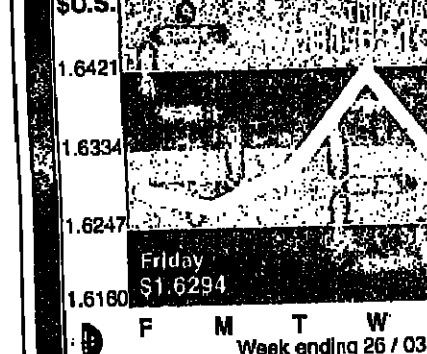
Week ending 26 / 03 / 99

DOLLAR/YEN London 1600 GMT



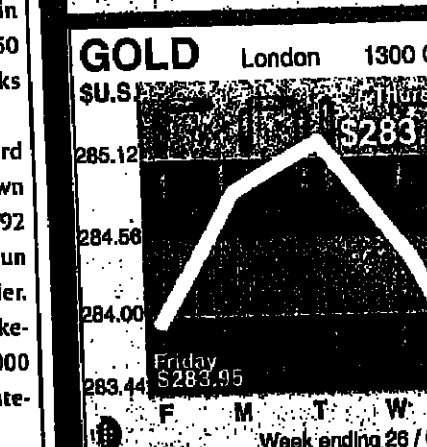
Week ending 26 / 03 / 99

POUND/DOLLAR London 1600 GMT



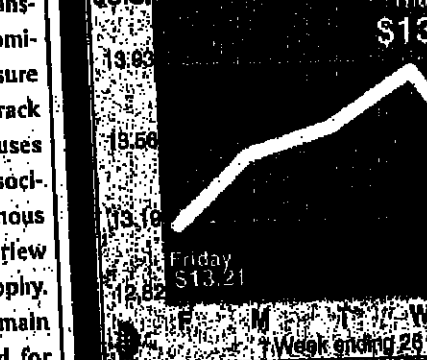
Week ending 26 / 03 / 99

GOLD London 1300 GMT



Week ending 26 / 03 / 99

OIL - Brent One Month Delivery 1400 GMT



Week ending 26 / 03 / 99



Electricity has to pay for the food

MOTORING

RENAULT, NISSAN INK DEAL

TOKYO (AP) — French automaker Renault SA will invest \$5.4 billion in Nissan Motor Co. to buy the debt-laden Japanese car manufacturer, the two companies agreed Saturday, creating the world's fourth-largest auto partnership.

The deal, which makes Renault the biggest shareholder in Nissan, Japan's second-largest carmaker, is the latest example of increasing involvement by foreign companies in Japan's once virtually closed auto sector.

Together, the two will have an output of 4.8 million vehicles and the ability to develop "strong synergies" worth \$3.3 billion for the 2000-02 period, the companies said.

"As automakers, both companies have a strong wish to be giant global players," Nissan President Yoshikazu Hanawa told reporters. "That's why we reached this agreement."

Hanawa and Renault Chairman Louis Schweitzer inked the deal after it was approved by both companies' boards. Schweitzer said the deal would "produce both growth and cost reduction."

Renault will take a 36.8 percent stake in Nissan Motor and a 22.5 percent stake in Nissan Diesel Motor Co., a truckmaker subsidiary.

Nissan ranks No. 7 in world production of cars and trucks, and Renault is

11th, according to industry analysts at Ward's Automotive International.

Renault first made a formal offer to buy a stake in Nissan on March 16, after talks between Nissan and Germany's DaimlerChrysler broke down. At the time, Nissan was seeking a foreign partner to help it write off an estimated \$18 billion in debt and return to profitability.

The Japanese government praised the deal.

Kaoru Yosano, Japan's minister of International Trade and Industry, said in a statement that the deal "corresponds with an industrial revival program which Japan is seeking to implement."

Once a symbol of Japan's industrial might, Nissan has suffered losses during five of the last six years. The company's own forecast also shows it losing another quarter of a billion dollars this year.

The two companies also announced Saturday that Carlos Ghosn, Renault's executive vice president, will become Nissan's chief operating officer and that two other top Renault executives will join the Japanese automaker's senior management.

Also, the companies proposed that Hanawa assume a position on Renault's board of directors.

Foreign companies have become more involved in the Japanese car industry as



it struggles with slumping sales caused by the Asian economic crisis and Japan's worst recession in 50 years.

In 1996, Ford Motor Co. gained a controlling share in Japan's Mazda Motor Corp.

In other big multinational tie-ups, Ford announced in January that it was

buying the passenger car operations of Volvo AB, while Daimler-Benz AG bought Chrysler Corp. last year.

Currently, General Motors Corp. is negotiating with Saab Automobile AB to buy the half of Saab that GM doesn't already own, according to widespread news reports.

NISSAN WILL PRODUCE NEW Z-CAR

DETROIT (AP) — Nissan Motor Co. plans to return its most famous vehicle, the Z sports car, to the North American market to help reverse its sales dive.

The Japanese automaker will announce next Wednesday at the New York International Auto Show that a production version has been approved, said a company source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nissan displayed a prototype of the new Z-car in January at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and has been hinting for nearly a year it may go into production.

"I think it's a great move," said analyst Wes Brown of Nextrend, an industry consulting firm in Thousand Oaks, Calif. "When we first saw the vehicle in concept form, our opinion was it's a no-brainer. It's an image car and that's something that Nissan's been lacking for a while."

The fortunes of Nissan, the second-largest automaker in Japan, have declined in large part because of its failure in the U.S. market, where its cars and trucks are considered reliable but bland. Last year its U.S. sales fell 14 percent in a robust market.

Its huge debt, estimated between \$22 billion and \$37 billion, has forced Nissan to consider an alliance with another automaker. DaimlerChrysler AG backed out of talks with Nissan two weeks ago, though Nissan now is negotiating a possible linkup with France's Renault SA.

The original Datsun 240-Z was a big hit with Americans when it debuted 30 years ago. It was stylish, agile and affordable — traits Nissan is hoping the new Z-car will inherit as well.



analysts expect the new Z to go into production within a couple of years, but it has a lot more competition.

Motor Co., Audi AG and Ford Motor Corp. all have new cars planned to hit the market next year or two. They'll include the Mazda Miata, BMW Z3, Mercedes-Benz SLK and Porsche Boxster.

Z-car prototype borrows styling cues from the original 1969 Z. It includes a long "sugar scoop" headlight and sweeping front fenders. Overall fastback shape that's sleeker, but more aerodynamic than the original.

Nissan officials noted at the show that debt-laden Nissan cannot afford anything less than a big hit with the new Z. "It's a risk," Jerry Hirschberg, president of Nissan's North America design studio where the Z-car was designed, said in

January. "Nissan can't afford to make a misstep right now."

Nissan officials said then that the new Z needs to be a high-volume car with sales as high as 100,000 a year. The company hopes to price it below \$25,000, which would put it at the lower end of the market that the Miata has dominated.

"A vehicle like that priced at that range will create a tremendous amount of showroom traffic, and that's what they need," Brown said. "But there's too much competition out there to expect 100,000 units of a sports car in this market."

The rear-drive car likely will be powered by a four-cylinder engine, but a six-cylinder engine may also be offered. Hirschberg said in January that Nissan also was considering a convertible version.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

A balanced and blueprinted 2.4-liter DOHC 16-valve 4-cylinder engine rated at 200 horsepower and 180 ft-lbs of torque.

Modifications include a racing profile camshaft, lightweight pistons, 10.7:1 compression ratio, reprogrammed electronic controls and custom dual exhaust.

Racing-style brakes from the Japanese-market Skyline GT-R. 5-speed manual transmission, lightweight flywheel and lowered independent suspension.

8-inch alloy wheels mounted with 215/40ZR18 front and 225/40ZR18 rear tires.

Electronically-opened doors. Tinted front and side glass. Cloth and leather interior trim with special materials for the backrests. Glass hatch with twin gas-struts. Wraparound rear taillamps with unique lens design.

HONDA 'ODYSSEY' RECEIVES FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING

TORRANCE (PRN) — The all-new Honda Odyssey minivan has earned the government's highest rating for occupant protection in frontal collisions in tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

NHTSA's NCAP (New Car Assessment Program) tests are based on a frontal impact collision at 35 mph. A five-star rating, NHTSA's maximum, indicates that there is less than a 10 percent chance of front-seat occupants experiencing a serious injury in this kind of collision when they are

properly wearing their seatbelts. The Honda Odyssey is the only minivan in its class to offer head-curtain and three-point seat belts at seven seating positions. Further, it has been designed to provide maximum collision protection through the use of a box-section body and 4-ring shell construction.

The Odyssey is the largest Honda ever, powered by a 24-valve, 3.5-liter SOHC VTEC V-6 rated at 210 horsepower, the most powerful engine in the minivan class. Its four-wheel independent suspension provides enhanced ride and handling, with better isolation from road noise and vibration. In addition, active safety is enhanced by stan-

dard four-wheel anti-lock brakes (ABS) and a Traction Control System (TCS) on the Odyssey EX.

The Odyssey has been collecting accolades from the automotive press since its introduction in October 1998. Automobile, Car and Driver and Motor Trend magazines have all named the Odyssey the best minivan on the market. Consumers have also reacted strongly, with Odyssey sales up more than 300 percent since its introduction.

WOLFSBURG (AP) — Volkswagen is recalling 35,000 of its A3 Golf cars in Germany to double check for problems with the airbag system, a move prompted by a fatal accident involving a small child last year.

Some 18,000 owners of the Golf models in Germany have already been advised not to let children ride in the front seat even if strapped into special safety seats, the company said Friday.

VW also had already announced in January that in addition to deactivating the airbags, parents might have repair stations disconnect the electrical wiring linked to the system as an additional precaution.

In December, a three-year-old was killed in Munich when a deactivated passenger-seat handbag inflated during a head-on collision.

Wet Weather Driving

Heavy rain in many areas increases the chances of traffic crashes. Driving carefully on slippery roads and in low visibility conditions could save lives. Most crashes are preventable if motorists pay extra attention. Reduced visibility and slick surfaces mean that motorists will need to modify their normal weather driving habits.

In case it rains again as it rained heavily last Thursday, avoid crashes by following these recommendations for safer driving.

Slow down
Motorists should drive slowly, particularly through puddles.

Hitting several inches of water at high speeds can cause a driver to lose control of the car. Fast driving through puddles may also push or splash water into the engine and cause it to stall. Driving at slower speeds also helps drivers be prepared for sudden stops due to disabled cars, debris, and other hazards associated with wet weather driving.

Keep your distance

A car needs two-to-three times more stopping distance on wet pavement, so allow extra following distance between cars. If the car skids and control is lost, do not slam on the brakes. Instead apply the brakes with a steady light but firm pressure. Remember to steer in the direction the car is sliding. When traction is regained, steering control will return. For cars equipped with anti-lock brakes, drivers should apply heavy steady pressure, but not pump the brakes.

Use the center lanes
When driving during heavy rain, use center lanes of the road (with-out straddling the yellow line). Avoid outside lanes where water collects at curbside.

Avoid distractions
Motorists are advised to minimize eating, drinking, cellular phone use, tuning stereo or applying makeup while driving, particu-

larly in the rain. If it's necessary to engage in these activities pull over and stop in a safe place.

Stay informed
Tune into radio and television weather reports to know where flood warning areas or traffic congestion might be located. If possible, avoid these areas.

Car maintenance
Car maintenance needs to be increased during wet weather. Motorists are advised to follow this checklist:
-Check brakes periodically after driving through a puddle, check that brakes are working properly by tapping them gently a few times.
-Use headlights and windshield defroster. Driving in the rain means reduced visibility. It is recommended that motorists turn on the vehicle's headlights so they can see and be seen. Turning on the defroster helps keep the inside of the windshield clear of moisture.

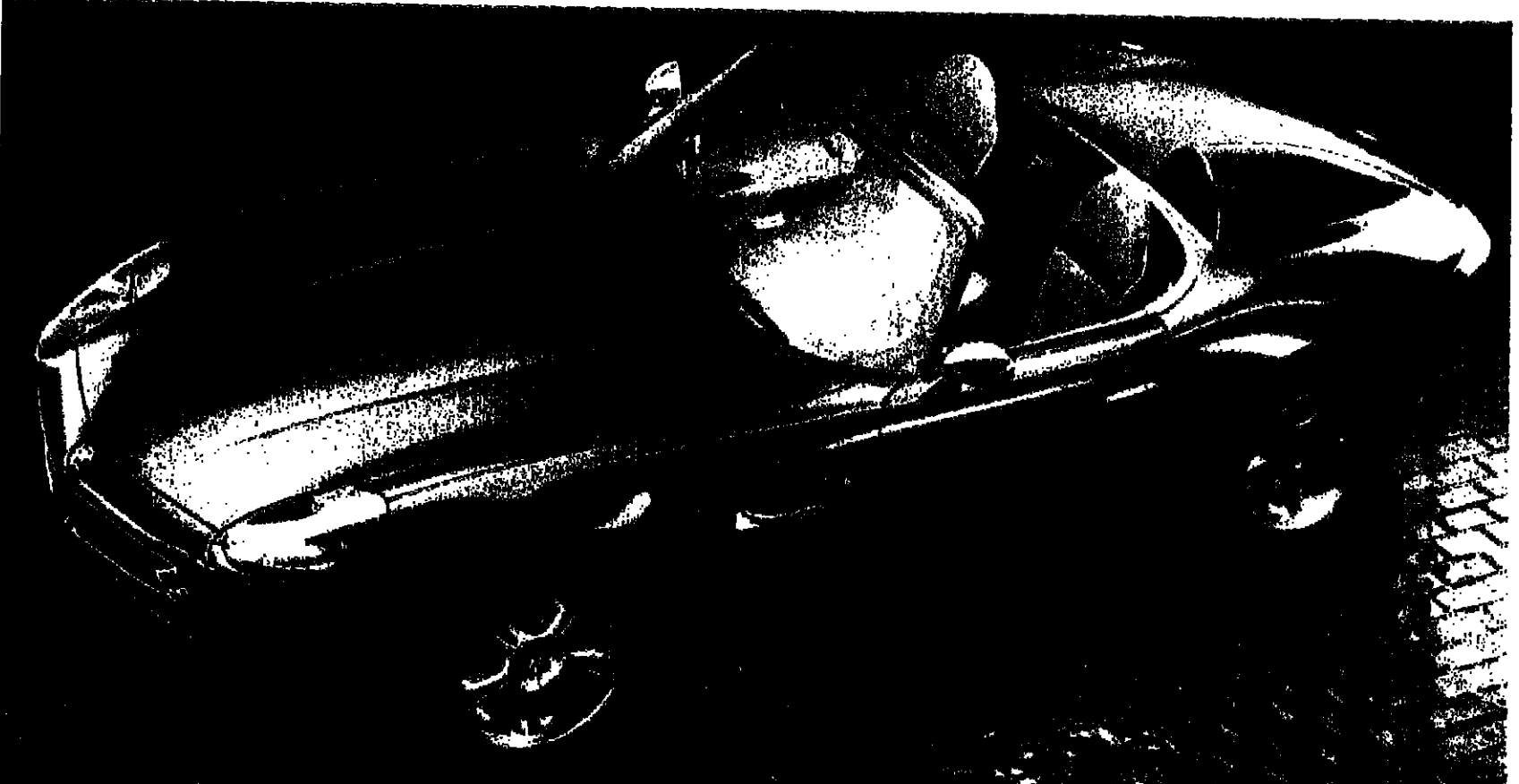
Check tires
Make sure tires are in good condition and are at the recommended inflation level. Driving with bald tires on a slippery surface is a major factor in skidding. Tires should have at least 1/32nd of an inch tread depth at any two adjacent grooves. Driving on tires that are over-inflated or under-inflated is also extremely dangerous on wet pavement.

Make sure windshield wiper blades are in good condition
Streaks or skipping on the vehicle's windshield are signs of worn wiper blades. Inspect wipers once a month and check washer solvent reservoir to ensure it's full.

NINE-FLOOR PLUNGE
MOSCOW (AP) — A woman drove off the ninth floor of a parking garage as her ex-husband was teaching her how to drive, leaving the couple badly injured. Gleb Muin, was teaching his ex-wife, Lyudmila, how to drive in the Moscow garage when she apparently stepped on the accelerator by mistake and the car plunged through a glass wall, the report said.

The car landed on the top of several trees, stopping short of the ground. It took rescue workers about 90 minutes to cut the injured couple free, the report said. "It's amazing that they actually survived such a crash," said a rescue service spokeswoman.

A NEW BMW FOR BOND'S NEW MOVIE



This is a Z 07 prototype. According to BMW and Metro Goldwin Mayer, a similar car will appear in the next James Bond movie and be used by Pierce Brosnan who plays the role of the British secret agent. The film titled "The World is Not Enough" will be completed by Nov. 1999. (AP PHOTO)



RANA ASFOUR
Health editor

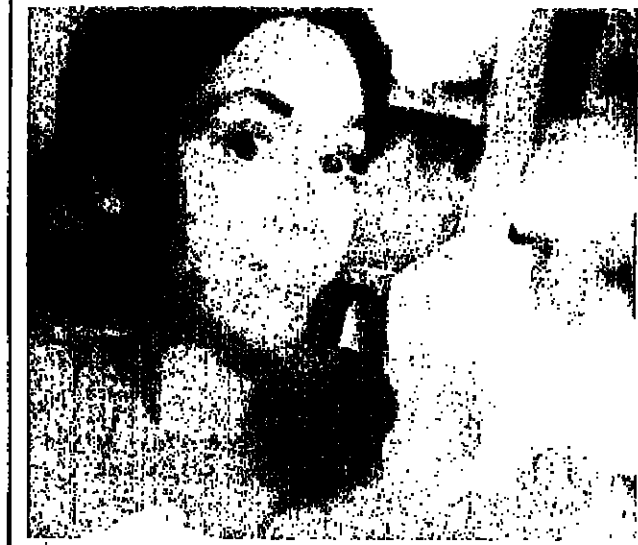
All sorts of fungi just love to grow into many-celled, filamentous colonies, especially on bread and in spaghetti sauce jars. Some molds just destroy taste, but others, like *Aspergillus flavus*, make people extremely sick.

Mold usually forms on dairy products, bread and acidic foods like tomato sauce or jelly, stored in moist, dark areas in airtight containers.

If you're lucky, aspergillus will make you vomit quickly. If not, this mold toxin might cause liver disease, which could potentially result in cancer.

If any food is very moldy, wrap it up and throw it away. However, small moldy spots on hard cheese and firm fruits and vegetables can be cut away, including a 1-inch margin around and below the spot. You can also scoop out tiny spots of mold from jelly and jam. First remove the mold itself, then, with a clean spoon, the area around it.

Though experts don't all agree, most of those we spoke with advise discarding other foods with mold, including bread.



SWEET FOR THE SWEET, SUBSTITUTE FOR THE DIABETIC

Today, the American Diabetes Association says people with diabetes can have sugar, but that sugar needs to be substituted for other carbohydrates in the meal plan. Like all of us, people with diabetes need to limit the amount of sugar they eat. Sugary foods are often foods without much nutrition. They have calories, but lack important vitamins, minerals and fiber and are often high in fat.

The good news is, there are many sugar free products that can give you sweetness that tastes as good as sugar. Today, there are thousands of sugar free alternatives to your favorite foods that taste great. You can even whip up sugar free recipes that deliver delicious breakfasts, side dishes and snacks.

Cookies, sodas, ice cream and frozen yogurt all come in sugar free versions. Sugar free baked goods and desserts can be just as delectable as their sugary cousins. The sweetness of sugar free syrups can be a real eye-opener for breakfast pancakes or waffles and syrup can be an ideal ingredient to enhance the naturally sweet taste of fruits and vegetables in many recipes. In addition, two tablespoons of sugar free syrup is a free food so it can be added to your meal plan instead of substituted.

Diabetes doesn't have to rob your taste buds of sweet treats. With the taste of today's sugar free products, you can watch what you eat and still eat what you like.

DOES HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY MAKE YOU FAT?

No. In fact, it might help you stay thin.

Estrogen helps you metabolize fat so you don't store it so easily.

In studies on more than 2000 women, results consistently show that those taking HRT do not gain more weight. In fact, many of them gain less

than post menopausal women not taking estrogen.

One caveat: if you take more estrogen than you need, you may retain fluid and your breasts may enlarge, making it look like you gained a few extra pounds. That's why it's important to work with your doctor to get the right dosage.



TIP OF THE DAY
Never forget why you wanted to lose weight. When you are bored or tired of doing the weight control program, take out some old "before" photos to remember how you felt and why you wanted to change. Never be too hard on yourself and don't forget that losing weight means changing behavior, which takes time and patience.

TRANSPLANT FIXES BOY'S OWN LIVER

CHARLOTTESVILLE (UPI) — Doctors at the University of Virginia Medical Center say they managed to get an 8-year-old boy's liver to regenerate by transplanting a donor liver beside it.

Dr. Timothy Pruett says as a result, Nicholas Ribble will not have to take immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of his life.

Pruett is a professor of

surgery and chief of the Transplantation Division at U.Va. He says the operation - called an auxiliary heterotopic transplant - was one of about 75 performed in this country.

Nicholas suffered an unexplained liver failure in early August. His mother, Teresa, says he was first diagnosed with strep throat. On Aug. 14, a piece of donor liver from another child was placed next to

Nicholas' liver and hooked up. Doctors say they are unsure what happened to Nicholas' liver. They say a virus might have been responsible for its failure. When the operation occurred, his liver was small and shrunken. Last month, doctors say, it was full-size and functioning normally.

"We're really optimistic," Pruett told the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch.

NEW PEELING TECHNIQUE OFFERS LUNCHTIME SOLUTION TO SKIN RESURFACING

NEW ORLEANS (PRN) — More and more people are using the traditional lunch hour for more than just lunch. Running errands, shopping and exercising have become increasingly popular ways for workers to spend their hourly lunch break. Now, time-crunched consumers have another lunchtime option - scheduling an appointment with a dermatologist for a new skin peeling procedure that allows patients to wear make-up after the treatment and function normally with minimal redness.

Speaking at the American Academy of Dermatology's 57th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, dermatologist Mark Rubin, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Division of Dermatology, University of California, San Diego, discussed the benefits of Dermapeeling as the latest treatment option for skin resurfacing.

Dermapeeling, or microabrasion, is a fairly new procedure in the United States for treating common skin conditions such as rough skin texture, uneven pigmentation, acne, sun damage, fine wrinkles and acne scars. Although Dermapeeling has been used in Europe for more than seven years, it has only recently gained popularity in the United States.

Rubin explained that microabrasion is a technique that involves stripping off very thin, superficial layers of the skin using machines that employ airflow from a vacuum-like device and sterile "sand" that consists of aluminum oxide. The way the current devices are set up, air is circulated through a handpiece with variable levels of airflow and sand.

By varying the airflow and sand, microabrasion can create very superficial wounds - 10 microns, or ten-thousandths of a millimeter in depth - with one pass of the handpiece across the surface of the skin or deeper wounds of over 100 microns, or one-tenth of a millimeter in depth, with multiple passes of the handpiece. In order to compare how deep a micron is, Dr. Rubin explained that a sheet of paper is approximately 80 microns deep.

"One of the main benefits of microabrasion is the ability to create controlled, superficial removal of skin, allowing each patient to receive a custom treatment that is deeper in areas of more severe damage," explained Dr. Rubin.

Since microabrasion is typically performed with only a few passes of the handpiece over the skin to create a superficial wound, anes-



thesia is not needed for the procedure. Dr. Rubin said that because the wound is superficial, the patient will experience only mild redness for a few hours after the procedure and can apply make-up and return to work. "This is truly a lunchtime peel in that it can be done in 15-20 minutes with minimal preparation time," stated Dr. Rubin.

While the superficial nature of the procedure keeps redness to a minimum, one treatment is not sufficient for most skin problems. For best results, an average patient may need four to eight treatments spaced from one to three weeks apart.

"What we're accomplishing with microabrasion is not only removing some of the damaged skin, but stimulating new cell growth as well," said Dr. Rubin. "Research has shown that repetitive, superficial abrasions can create significant new cell growth. Microabrasion takes advantage of this response by allowing patients to gradually resurface their skin without the 'downtime' and risk of more aggressive procedures."

NOT SMOKED MARIJUANA IS THE FUTURE OF CANNABINOID DRUGS

WASHINGTON, (UPI) — The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released its report "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base." The report was prompted by a request from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to explore the potential medical benefits and risks of marijuana. The IOM report recommends additional scientific based research on the risks and benefits of marijuana in a number of areas.

Regarding the IOM report, the ONDCP concluded, "We note the report's conclusion that 'the future of cannabinoid drugs lies not in smoked marijuana, but in chemically-defined drugs that act on the cannabinoid receptors that are a natural component of human physiology.'" In the past, General Harry McCaffrey, the Director of ONDCP, has noted the availability of MARINOL, a legally available, FDA approved pharmaceutical product that contains synthetic THC, the main active ingredient in marijuana.

MARINOL (dronabinol) has been proven an effective drug for the treatment of anorexia or appetite loss associated with AIDS. It was first brought onto the market in 1985 for the treatment of refractory nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy. In 1992, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a supplemental new drug application for MARINOL for the treatment of appetite loss or anorexia associated with weight loss in AIDS patients.

MARINOL is generally well tolerated with side effects usu-

ally being mild and reversible by lowering of the drug's dose. The most common side effects involve the central nervous system and include things like sleepiness, dizziness and euphoria (or giddiness).

In clinical trials, and in use by thousands of patients, MARINOL has been shown to be effective in stimulating the appetite in a significant number of HIV/AIDS patients. "This drug is highly effective in helping patients increase their appetite," said Gary Cohn, M.D., vice president of Pacific Oaks Medical Group in Beverly Hills, California - the largest private medical practice in the U.S. devoted to HIV treatment and research. "With proper titration, I can achieve the desired results with little or no side effects and unlike marijuana, it can be used in a work setting, meaning that I can get my patients back to work and into their old routine again."

Roxane Laboratories, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of ethical human pharmaceutical products with a strong commitment to HIV and palliative care. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, located in Ridgefield, CT, and is part of the Boehringer Ingelheim world-wide group of companies, based in Ingelheim, Germany. A privately held company founded in 1885, Boehringer Ingelheim is a major pharmaceutical, chemical, and animal health products provider with operations in more than 100 countries around the world.

SEA CREATURES BRING EASIER HEALING

A common treatment for bulging, ruptured, or herniated disks in the neck is to remove the disk and to graft bone from another part of the body to the trouble spot.

But pain at the slight where the bone was removed can make this solution more painful than the original condition. Now, researchers at

the Methodist Hospital in Houston are trying coral spinal fusion. In which Indonesian coral is used instead of bone. Once it's processed, this coral had the same chemical and physical structure as human bone. It is speculated that this treatment could be widely available within a year.

RED BEETS

Armed with folate, this super star vitamin is essential in preventing neural tube birth defects and fighting the battle against heart disease. Only half a cup, cooked fresh and sliced, delivers as much folate as one whole cup of fresh orange

juice and twice the fiber (1.8g) of 1 whole cup of raw, shredded cabbage. It also provided for doses of vitamin C, magnesium, potassium and iron.

Selecting:

Choose small, hard, well-rounded beets that are uni-

form in size. Skin should be deep dark, dramatic red, smooth and unblemished. Avoid beets with soft, moist spots or that appear wrinkled. The taproot tell of tenderness: a slim one is best. The freshest beets have small, crisp, dark-green leaves.

Storing:

Once home, immediately chop off greens within an inch of the beet. Place unwashed whole beets with taproot intact in a plastic bag and store in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. When you're ready to cook them, wash beets thoroughly, but skip the veggie brush.

Red beets are thin-skinned. So remember to always cook them whole to avoid bleeding. Peel, remove taproot and slice only after cooking.



LUSCIOUS LOW-FAT CHICKEN

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon each salt and black pepper
3/4 lb chicken tenders, cut up
Cooking spray
1/2 lb okra, cut into 1/2-inch rounds
2 cups fresh corn kernels
1 cup chopped onions
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
1 cup fat-free chicken broth
1 (10-oz) package frozen lima beans, thawed
1/3 cup sour cream
1 1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves

Method:

1. In resealable plastic food-storage bag, mix flour and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and black pepper. Add chicken; shake to coat. Remove from bag; tap off excess.

2. With cooking spray, coat non-stick skillet; heat. Add chicken; cook 6 minutes, turn-

ing once, until lightly browned and cooked; remove to bowl.
3. Remove skillet from heat; respray skillet. Add okra; saute 5 to 7 minutes, until lightly charred and tender. Remove to bowl with chicken.

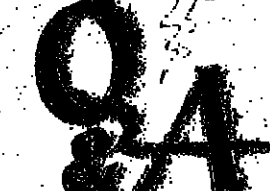
4. Add corn to skillet; saute 1 to 2 minutes until bright yellow and crisp-tender; remove to bowl. Add onion and bell pepper; saute 1 minute, until

browned slightly. Add 1/4 cup broth; cover, simmer 5 minutes. Add lima beans; cover; cook 5 minutes, stirring, until vegetables are tender.

5. Add remaining broth, the sour cream, thyme and remaining salt and black pepper. Bring to a simmer, stirring. Return chicken, okra and corn to skillet; heat through to thicken, stirring.



ASK
DR PETER
GOTT



DEAR DR. GOTT: We are planning an extended trip this summer to France and England. I am trying to get pregnant now. Will the shots that I need for travel hurt the fetus? How far could I be into my pregnancy and still travel? Can I use anti-nausea pills or patches?

DEAR READER: The U.S. Public Health Service no longer requires immunizations for people traveling to Europe, so you don't have to worry about shots prior to your trip.

Your remaining questions concern an issue that is best left to your obstetrician. I strongly believe that pregnant women should not take any medicine for the first three months at least, unless the drug is approved by an obstetrician. It is during this trimester that the most fundamental and important fetal development takes place. I also want expectant mothers not to drink alcohol or smoke, because these substances can harm an unborn child.

I am sure that your obstetrician would be glad to guide you. As a general rule, women with uncomplicated pregnancies can enjoy a normal life, including travel, well into their third trimester.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am 66 years old and was found to have a blood pressure of 200/100. My doctor gave me samples of two medicines, which I have been taking for two weeks. Now I am dizzy, lightheaded and weak. She made no provision for follow-up care and I believe that she doesn't care. Where can I go for help?

DEAR READER: I think your doctor was merely being thoughtful by trying to save you money. However, she certainly should have arranged to monitor your blood pressure to make sure that it was controlled and that you were not having an adverse reaction to the drugs. Your symptoms could indicate that the medicines are too strong for you; your blood pressure may have fallen to an unacceptably low level. Look for a doctor who is both concerned about your needs and willing to check your blood pressure until it stabilizes.

Mitnick pleads guilty FREE WITHIN A YEAR

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A celebrated hacker has pleaded guilty to charges of computer fraud under the terms of a deal reached with federal prosecutors, officials said.

Under the agreement Kevin Mitnick, 35, could be free in one year, US prosecutors said Friday.

At one time the FBI's most wanted computer hacker, Mitnick is charged with penetrating the systems of Motorola, Sun Microsystems, Fujitsu, NEC and Finnish mobile phone company Nokia.

He was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February 1995 after three years of investigation. He was able to obtain — or tried to obtain — software worth several million dollars, authorities said.

His trial was to have begun on April 20.

Under the deal to be formally approved on June 14, Mitnick has agreed to pay his victims any profits he receives from books or films about his exploits.

He is also forbidden to touch a computer for the next three years.

He will be sentenced to three years and 10 months in prison. With time already served, he could



Screenshot from 2000.com with Kevin Mitnick in background

be out of prison by mid-2000.

Mitnick has become a folk hero for the hacker community. On September 13, supporters — angry about a biography written by a New York Times reporter — shut down the paper's Internet site.

"Hackedown" — a Miramax film based on his life story — is to be released later this year.

According to lawyer Donald Randolph, Mitnick plans to go back to school after his release, and would like to work as a computer consultant.

TECHNOLOGY IN BRIEF

Malaysians barred from chat line

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysians have been barred from using a popular Internet chat line after some users violated net etiquette, the Sunday Mail newspaper reported. Some Malaysian users were "found to be offensive, abusive and invade the privacy of others in the chat group," it cited the Internet Relay Chatting site administrator as saying. The ban is achieved by blocking the country's Internet service provider (ISP) Internet protocol, a unique address that identifies where users originate from. An official of Dainet, a US-based website providing online chat software for the site, said Malaysian users were involved in online soliciting from advertisements to pornography exchange. "Both are illegal on our network. We have repeatedly killed the spammers, take the channels away where applicable and tried to contact the provider," he was quoted as saying. "However, all these have had no effect. Unless the Malaysian ISP can pledge to actively help us in keeping the offenders off our network, the ban remains in effect." The Malaysia ISP was a "hot" address, responsible for almost half of the network of spams or "rubbish postings" received daily, the official added — Agence France Presse.

University warns of new computer virus

PITTSBURGH — A new computer virus can allow documents to be e-mailed to other people without warning, a potential security breach that should worry businesses and governments, an expert at Carnegie Mellon University said Saturday. The "Melissa macro" or W97M-Melissa virus spreads via infected e-mail and attacks computers loaded with Microsoft's widely used Word 97 or Word 2000 programs, according to CERT — or Computer Emergency Response Team — Carnegie Mellon's Department of Defense-funded computer security team. CERT first heard of the virus Friday afternoon and its members worked through the night to analyze the virus and develop a fix, CERT manager Katherine Fithen said. "We're getting so many reports from across the world, that we know this is going to be a huge problem come Monday," Fithen said. She noted that since CERT was founded 10 years ago, this is only the second time it has considered a virus important enough to warrant a public announcement. The first, in 1994, warned of a virus that allowed computer burglars to collect passwords. CERT has not determined where the Melissa virus originated. Fithen said she is not allowed to say whether any governmental agency has suffered a security breach as the result of Melissa. Microsoft spokesman Adam Sohn said company programmers worked with CERT and manufacturers of anti-virus programs to develop an antidote — The Associated Press.

BACKWARD COUNTRIES SHOULD WORRY ABOUT Y2K TOO

ZAGREB (R) — It would seem to the uninitiated that technological backwardness has at least one advantage — It removes the need to worry about the millennium bug. Not true, experts say.

Even countries which lag behind the developed world in terms of computerisation will not be spared spending millions of dollars making their computers Y2K-compliant if they want to avoid black-outs, water shortages and other possible problems.

In fact, countries like Croatia — which invested little in new computer technology in the past decade mostly because of the 1991-95 independence war and economic problems — might find the problem even more harrowing than more advanced countries.

That is because many public utilities, big banks and central state

services operating large data bases, such as the police and health service, still use old main-frame computers.

Those machines, bought at best in the mid-1980s, typically run on program languages such as Cobol which few people are still familiar with, said Marjan Rkovic, head of the information science section at the Croatian Chamber of Economy. "We haven't even started solving the problem," said Rkovic, also a member of the state commission for solving the Y2K bug. "We are very late with our preparations."

The millennium bug, known in the software industry as Y2K, refers to the inability of computers to recognise the date change from 1999 to 2000 because their timing devices acknowledge only two digits.

Nothing spent

While most industrialised countries have been preparing for a potentially dramatic leap into the third millennium for years, the Croatian government has not yet spent a single dollar and adopted a national program only in late February.

In a recent report, the World Bank put Croatia in a group of countries with medium awareness of the problem.

The state commission was formed only last May and Rkovic said he hoped the government would soon award its first grant — \$250,000 for a media campaign to raise public awareness about the problem.

The amount is just a drop in the ocean in comparison with some \$600 million — or roughly three

percent of GDP — which Croatia will have to spend, according to some conservative estimates, to make a smooth transition to 2000, Rkovic said.

"The worst is that many [companies] are simply not aware of the problem, and others are reluctant to invest in a process that does not create any added value," Rkovic said.

Computer experts are also pessimistic.

"I am very unhappy with what the commission has done so far to raise public awareness of the problem. The effects are nil," said Delimir Purgar of Eurocomputer Systems (ECS), a local company selling Compaq, Microsoft and Oracle operating systems and hardware.

Purgar said time was already running out in big state-owned

companies and public services, many of which have not even started addressing the problem properly.

"We expect a lot of glitches at the turn of the year, especially at the big, state-run firms."

Purgar said in more than 100 percent of cases ECS were the ones to initiate equipment checks and to start making necessary corrections to ensure Y2K-compliance, rather than his customers.

"It was not before we entered 1999 that we got our first concrete order to check and fix a system at one company," he said.

Croatian Telecommunications, among the biggest and most vulnerable companies, waited until the end of January to run an international public tender in a Zagreb daily for bids to make some of its equipment Y2K-compliant.

Purgar said ECS had at first expected a big jump in revenue from services related to the millennium bug, but had now downgraded its expectations.

"Given the current interest, I doubt we will make much money," he said, adding that many companies would simply try to fiddle their way around the problem by improving while others would just shut their eyes and wait to see what happens.

Rkovic said he had heard serious people in some big state firms proposing solutions such as turning computer timing devices back by 82 years or even retreating to outdated technologies from the pre-computer era.

The days of the operator-assisted local telephone switchboard may not have gone for ever, after all.

TECHNOLOGY USELESS WITHOUT STEADY HANDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The F-15 Strike Eagle banks toward its firing point about 32 kilometers outside of Yugoslavia. In the rear seat, the "wizzo" or weapons service officer releases a 907-kilo AGM-130 missile.

Satellite guidance steers the weapon toward its target, then the back-seat Air Force officer uses a hand controller and a video screen to guide the weapon into the target.

"We try to fly steadily. But if they [enemies] are shooting, the wizzo appreciates it if you avoid the bullets," says one F-15 pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the NATO mission to stop Serb attacks on minority

Albanians in Kosovo, U.S. and allied forces are relying on precision-guided weapons, from cruise missiles to laser- and satellite-guided bombs.

In ideal conditions, the airman in the F-15 will see an individual window in a building get progressively larger on his cockpit video until the picture goes blank as the weapon hits.

If clouds cover the ground, the satellite guidance will carry the weapon to its target, but with less than the 3-meter accuracy that can be achieved when the weapons officer is in control.

After viewing a video of what the cockpit weapons officer would have seen, Air

Commodore David Wilby of Britain's Royal Air Force said even the latest weapons require human skill beyond merely pushing buttons.

"It's very easy for us sitting in this room. But bear in mind these attacks have been carried out at night and in hostile territory," Wilby said. "There's some very steady hands there putting the aim points on."

High technology is employed throughout the Kosovo mission, from radar-evading B-2 bombers, which have seen their first combat use, to the new AGM-130 air-to-ground missiles.

A product of a post-Gulf War effort to expand the Air Force's arsenal of precision-guided munitions, the AGM-130 allows F-15 fighters visible to enemy radar to attack targets without flying directly over Yugoslavia's formidable air defense network.

But such precision weapons are not fail-safe: about 20 percent of the Navy's Tomahawk missiles miss their targets. NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Friday several pilots have returned to base with ordnance still strapped under their wings rather than risk errors.

"NATO pilots only fire at targets when they have a reasonable degree of confidence of being able to hit those targets accurately," Shea said.

The "standoff" weapons that are fired from a distance, and the nighttime tactics used by NATO so far, make it difficult to attack mobile Serb columns that are menacing Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population.

During the Gulf War, fewer than 10 percent of the bombs dropped were precision-guided. In the strikes on Yugoslavia, all the weapons used so far have had some sort of guidance system.

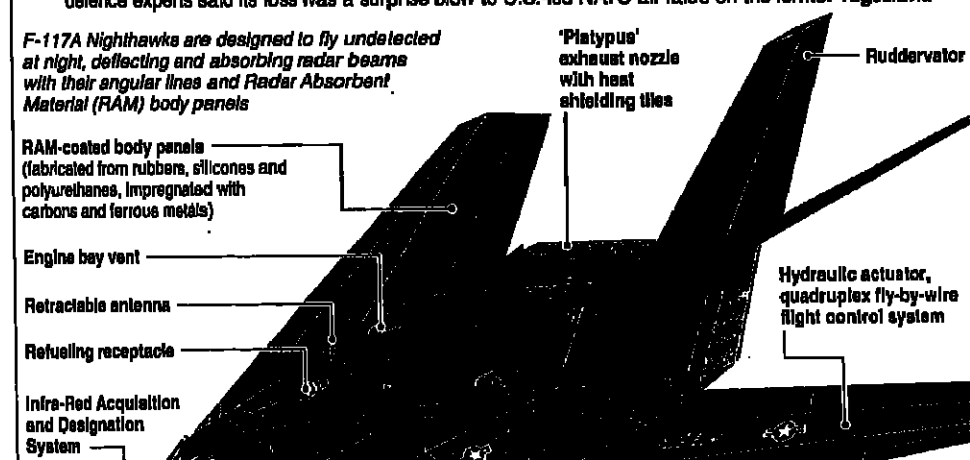
"Our battle damage assessment is showing us that our attacks have been effective," Wilby said.

Air Force B-52s that launched CALCMs, or conventional air-launched cruise missiles, at Yugoslav targets flew over the Adriatic Sea to their launch points. Their bomb bay doors opened and a rotary system released up to eight of the AGM-86C missiles, each carrying a 3,000-pound warhead.

As the weapon dropped into open air, its turbofan engines kicked in and fold-out wings deployed as the torpedo-shaped missile sped off toward

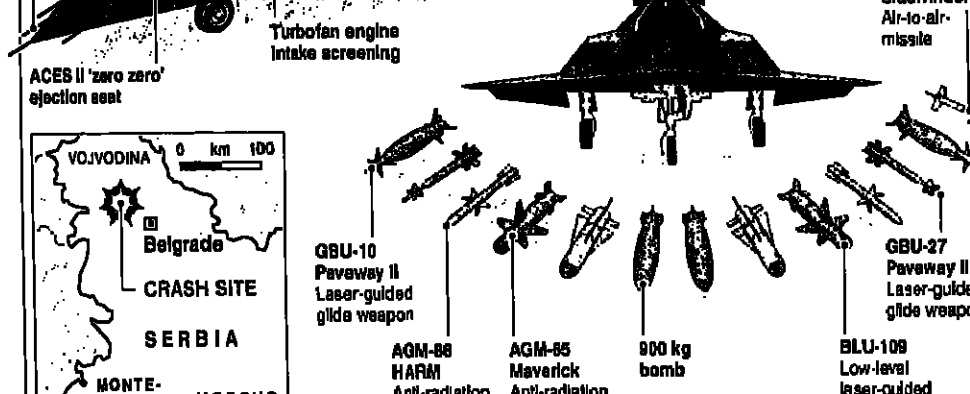
THE F-117A NIGHTHAWK

The bat-winged F-117 warplane which Yugoslav forces say they shot down on Saturday is the first to crash in combat and one of the most lethal weapons in NATO's arsenal. The sleek black plane, designed in secrecy to evade enemy radars, earned its spurs in the 1981 Gulf War and defence experts said its loss was a surprise blow to U.S.-led NATO air raids on the former Yugoslavia.



Source: Jane's Information Group, World Aircraft Information Files (Right Star Publishing plc)

Typical weaponry



Source: Jane's Information Group, World Aircraft Information Files (Right Star Publishing plc)

THE BOOMERANG-SHAPED F-117A Nighthawk, armed with laser-guided bombs, was used in the Gulf War against the most heavily defended Iraqi targets because of its ability to evade radar and radar-guided missiles. Stealth technology uses curved or angular surfaces to reduce radar reflection known — as the cross-section — and when combined with radar-absorbing composite materials, the plane's 43-foot (13-meter) wingspan displays an electronic cross-section the size of a bumblebee. The twin-engine, single-seat aircraft is powered by two General Electric F404 turbofan engines and has quadruple redundant fly-by-wire flight controls. It is air refuelable — The Associated Press.

Yugoslavia at more than 804 kilometers an hour.

Throughout its 90-minute route, the missile was in contact with a guidance satellite that constantly corrected and redirected the fast-turning projectile using a global position system.

Twenty-seven of these weapons, each 6.4-meters long, were fired on Yugoslavia on the first night's attack.

The CALCMs are so-called "fire and forget" weapons, meaning the plane that launches them can leave the area immediately and let the guid-

ance system aboard the darts 1 million miles take over.

Navy and allied ships have launched several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles. They blast off from launch tubes on decks of ships or submarines, then once airborne switch to jet engines for the cruise in to the target.

Using a built-in global positioning system receiver that gets its signals from satellites, as well as a digital mapping device that matches terrain to computerized data, the Tomahawk can deliver a 453-kilo warhead.

Several other precision weapons also are playing prominent roles:

— High-speed anti-radiation missiles, or HARMs, fired from a variety of aircraft against Yugoslav air-defense radars.

— Satellite-guided bombs, including the new Joint-Direct Attack Munition, dropped from B-2 bombers. Some were 907-kilo blast weapons, others 2268-kilo bunker-penetrating bombs.

— Advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles carried by F-15Cs, which shot down three Yugoslav MIG-29s.



22 SATELLITE LISTINGS

07:00 Market Watch
07:30 Europe Today
10:00 Market Watch
15:00 US CNBC Squawk Box
17:00 US Market Watch
19:00 Europe Tonight
20:00 US Power Lunch
21:00 US Street Signs
23:00 US Market Wrap
00:00 Europe Tonight(r)
01:30 NBC Nightly News
02:00 CNBC Asia Squawk Box
03:30 US Market Wrap(r)
04:00 Trading Day
06:00 US Business Centre
06:30 Lunch Money

06:00 National Geographic Specials Of The Week: Sonoran Desert - A Violent Eden
01:00 About Asia: The Gift Of The Monsoon
02:00 Explorer
03:00 Cairo Unveiled
03:30 Blues Highway
04:00 Mixed Strand: Islands: Descent Into The Ice
05:00 Family Hour: Last Frog
05:30 Elephant Island
06:00 Wild: Lemurs Tale
07:00 Our Living World: Mojave Adventures
08:00 National Geographic Specials: Kangaroo Comeback
08:00 Peoples and Places: Atomic Filmmakers
10:00 About Asia: The Gift Of The Monsoon
11:00 Insecta: Ants, Little Creatures Who Run The World
12:00 Mixed Strand: Love Those Trains
13:00 Elephant Island
14:00 Wild: Born To Be Wild
15:00 Our Living World: River Valleys, Path Of The Fish God
16:00 National Geographic Specials: Heroes Of The High Frontier
17:00 Peoples And Places: Spice Islands
18:00 Wild: Born To Be Wild
19:00 Our Living World: River Valleys, Path Of The Fish God
21:00 Peoples And Places: Spice Islands
22:00 Mixed Strand: Love Those Trains
23:00 Family Hour: Last Frog
23:30 Elephant Island

07:00 News
11:15 Cult
11:45 2000
12:15 Visa
12:45 No Comment
13:15 Europeans
13:45 Cinema
14:15 Visa
14:45 Style
15:15 Cult
15:45 International
16:15 2000
16:45 International
17:15 Europeans
17:45 Cult
18:15 Globus
18:45 Style
19:15 Cinema
19:45 International
20:15 News & Analysis
22:45 Europeans
23:00 News & Analysis
23:45 2000
00:00 News & Analysis
00:45 No Comment
01:00 International
02:15 Style
02:45 Globus
03:00 End

01:00 Journal-Mit Interview
01:30 Treasures Of The World
01:45 Timeline
02:00 Journal-Mit Die Woche
02:30 Projekt Zukunft-Das Zukunftsmagazin
03:00 Journal-Con La Semana
03:30 Germany Live
04:00 Journal-Mit Interview
04:30 Das Ende Der Odyssee
05:00 Journal-Mit Die Woche
05:30 Arts Unlimited-The Cultural Magazine
06:00 Journal-Mit Interview
06:30 Schauplatz Deutschland
07:00 Journal-Mit Interview
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22:00 Journal-Mit Tagesthema
22:30 Schauplatz Deutschland
23:00 Journal-Mit Die Woche
23:30 Treasures Of The World
23:45 Timeline

07:00 Journal TV5
07:15 Gourmandises
07:30 Telematin
08:00 TV5 Minutes et météo
08:05 Journal de Radio-Canada
08:30 4 et Demi
10:00 TV5 Minutes
10:05 Polemiques
11:00 TV5 Minutes
11:05 Reliefs
12:00 TV5 Minutes
12:05 Zig Zag Cafe
12:30 Gourmandises
13:00 TV5 Minutes
13:05 Volla Paris
13:30 Journal de France 3
14:00 Special Cinema
16:00 Journal International TV5
16:15 Course Destination Monde
17:15 Pyramide
17:45 Bus et Compagnie
18:30 TV5 Minutes
18:35 Jeu
19:00 Questions Pour un Champion
19:30 Journal TV5
20:00 Volla Paris
20:27 Un Livre Un Jour
20:30 Journal de La RTBF
21:00 Envoyé Spécial
23:00 Journal de France Television
23:30 Kiosque
00:15 Mise au Point
01:15 French Focus
01:25 Meteo Internationale
01:30 Journal de France 3
02:00 Journal de la RTBF
02:30 Fxculture
03:30 Polemiques
04:15 Claire Lamasche

09:30 Figure Skating
11:30 Rugby
12:30 Rally
13:00 Football
15:00 Superbike
16:30 Rally
18:00 Football
20:00 Bowling
21:00 Xtram Sports
22:00 Trial
23:00 Strongest Man
00:00 Football
01:00 Boxing
02:00 Superbike
02:30 Close

02:00 BBC World News
02:30 World Living: Top Gear
03:00 BBC World News
03:30 Asia Today/USA Direct
04:00 BBC World News
04:30 Asia Today/USA Direct
05:00 BBC World News
05:30 Asia Today/USA Direct
06:00 BBC World News
06:30 USA Direct
07:00 BBC World News
07:30 World Focus
08:00 BBC World News
08:30 World Living: Earth Report
09:00 BBC World News
09:30 Hard Talk
10:00 BBC World News
10:30 Correspondent
11:00 BBC World News
11:30 Hard Talk
12:00 BBC World News
12:30 World Living: Top Gear
13:00 The World Today
14:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World
15:00 BBC World News
15:30 The World Today
16:30 World Living
17:00 BBC World News
17:30 Hard Talk
18:00 BBC World News
18:30 Style
19:00 BBC World News
19:30 World Living: Earth Report
20:00 The World Today
21:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk
22:00 BBC World News
22:30 World Focus

02:30 Naked Truth
02:55 Spin City
03:25 Married With Children
03:50 Homicide: Life On The Streets
04:40 One Life To Live
05:30 General Hospital
06:20 Sunset Beach
07:10 Port Charles
07:35 Designing Women

08:00 Married Dora
08:25 Daddy Dearest
08:50 The Charmings
09:05 Silver Spoons
09:40 Houston Knights
10:30 Family Matters
10:55 One Life To Live
11:45 General Hospital
12:35 Sunset Beach
13:25 Port Charles
13:40 Designing Women
14:15 I Married Dora
14:40 Daddy Dearest
15:05 The Charmings
15:30 Silver Spoons
15:55 Houston Knights
16:45 Family Matters
17:10 Minor Adjustments
17:35 Step By Step
18:00 From The Earth To The Moon
18:00 1705 Mosahe
18:30 The Nanny
20:00 Buddy Faro
21:00 Michael Hayes
22:00 Naked Truth
22:30 Spin City
23:00 The New Adventures Robin Hood
00:00 The Closer

04:00 Out Show
06:00 Vietnam War Story
08:00 Robocop II
10:00 Master Harold And The Boys
12:00 Rebound: The Legend Of Earl The Goat's Marquis
14:00 Lean On Me
16:00 A Dry White Season
18:00 Welcome Home
20:00 Being Human
22:00 The Scorpion
00:00 All Use End In Murder
02:00 Being Human

04:30 Crook & Chase
05:30 Judge Judy
06:00 El In Focus
07:00 Jeopardy
07:30 Wheel Of Fortune
08:00 Hollywood Squares
08:30 Sally Jessy Raphael
09:30 El Uncut
10:00 The Roseanne Show
11:00 Sunshine Cuisine
11:30 Cooking Secrets Of The CIA
12:00 El News Daily
12:30 El FYE
13:00 Sally Jessy Raphael
14:00 El Behind The Scenes
14:30 Movie TV
15:00 Travel Update
15:30 Model Mania
16:30 Videofashion
17:00 The Roseanne Show
18:00 Jeopardy
18:30 Wheel Of Fortune
19:00 Hollywood Squares
19:30 Judge Judy
20:00 El Coming Attractions
20:30 El Behind The Scenes
21:00 El FYE
21:30 El Mysteries & Scandals
22:00 Videofashion
22:30 Media TV
23:00 Talk Soup
23:30 El News Daily
00:00 Jerry Springer
01:00 Sally Jessy Raphael(r)

01:00 Victor
03:00 Manhattan
06:00 Goldfinger
07:00 Giant
11:00 Singin' In The Rain
13:00 Boylent Green
15:00 That's Entertainment
17:00 Casablanca
19:00 Police Academy
21:00 Heaven's Gate
23:00 The Umbic Region

March 29, 1999 — THE ARAB DAILY

02:00 New Detective, The
03:00 Century Of Discoveries
04:00 Go For It
05:00 Ushale
06:00 The New Explorers II
07:00 Travelers
08:00 Lonely Planet II
09:00 Intimate Escapes
10:00 EyeWitness
11:00 Spirit
12:00 Go For It
13:00 The New Explorers II
14:00 Travelers
15:00 Intimate Escapes
16:00 Ushale
17:00 Lonely Planet II
18:00 The Shark Files
19:00 The Ultimate Guide
20:00 Lost Civilizations
21:00 Trauma
22:00 Discovery Profiles Series
23:00 Go For It
00:00 Lonely Planet III
01:00 The Ultimate Guide

02:00 Sunday Night Music
03:00 Night Videos
04:00 Kickstart
05:00 Top Selection
06:00 Kickstart
07:00 Non Stop Hits
08:00 MTV Data Videos
09:00 Non Stop Hits
10:00 Select MTV
11:00 Hilltop UK
12:00 So 90's
13:00 Top Selection
14:00 MTV Data Videos
15:00 Amour
16:00 MTV ID
17:00 Superrock

04:00 The Secret World Of Alex Mack
04:30 Mowgli
05:00 Mighty Max
05:30 Rock's Modern Life
06:00 Real Monsters
06:30 Doug
07:00 Arthur
07:30 Winzie's House
08:00 Blues Clues
08:30 The Busy World Of Richard Scarry
09:00 Mr Men
09:05 Mr Men
09:10 Mr Men
09:15 Maglo Mountain
09:30 The Digswell Dog Show
09:45 Little Hippo
10:00 Arthur
10:30 Hey Arnold
11:00 Caddog
11:30 Rugrats
12:00 Kanan & Kai
12:30 The Secret World Of Alex Mack
13:00 Doug
13:30 Rock's Modern Life
14:00 Real Monsters
14:30 Hey Arnold
15:00 Rugrats
15:30 Caddog
16:00 Kanan & Kai
16:30 Mowgli

03:00 True Believer
05:00 Hopscotch
07:00 Robin And Marion
08:00 Multiplicity
11:00 Lord Of The Flies
12:30 Brothers Of The Frontier
14:00 The Conversation
16:00 Beverly Hills Cop 3
18:00 High Tide
20:00 Viewer's Choice
22:00 Glory
00:30 About Last Night

02:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
03:00 Silk Stalkings
04:00 Powerboat & Jetsport
04:30 Pacific Blue
05:30 Acapulco Heat
06:30 TV Movie
08:30 Inside Edition
09:00 Pacific Blue
10:00 Early Edition
11:00 Real TV
11:30 Acapulco Heat
12:30 Inside Edition
13:00 The Commish
14:00 Pacific Blue
15:00 Baywatch
16:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
17:00 Early Edition
18:00 Real TV
18:30 Premier League Highlights
19:30 Pensacola
20:30 PSI Factor
21:30 The Premier Match
22:30 Inside Edition
00:00 Silk Stalkings
01:00 Acapulco Heat

02:00 Soul Vibration
04:00 VH1 Late Shift
06:00 Power Breakfast
10:00 Pop-Up Video
11:00 Upbeat
14:00 Ten Of The Best: Crowded House
15:00 Greatest Hits Of The Police
15:18 Pop-Up Video
16:00 Jukebox
18:00 The Music-Meal
19:00 Five @ Five
19:18 Pop-Up Video
20:00 Happy Hour With Toth Wilcox
21:00 VH1 Hits
22:00 Album Chart Show
23:00 Bob Mill's Big 80's
00:00 Greatest Hits: The Police
01:00 Pop-Up Video
01:18 Talk Music

12:00 Home Video
16:30 Maple Town
17:00 Super Boy
18:00 Bull Pen
18:30 Blossom
20:30 Telefun
21:30 Kick Off
23:30 Moon Lighting
00:30 Unhappily Ever After
01:00 Laurie Hill

06:00 Arabic Video-Clips
07:00 Yan Can Cook
08:30 Sports
14:00 Flash NewsLive
15:15 Mondial 98
16:15 Pino
18:00 Cine 99
20:00 News
23:00 L.A. Heat
00:00 Telesport

THE ARAB DAILY — MARCH 29, 1999

H O R O S C O P E S

ARIES (March 21-April 19):
 Discovery can be made before nightfall which will increase your chances for success in an endeavor that some might consider a "lost cause."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):
 It's important that you control your more basic impulses today, and that you get more in tune with your higher instincts and creativity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21):
 It's time to think of the past once more, as a way of answering two or three key questions you have about your future. Don't forget today!

CANCER (June 22-July 22):
 Someone may be asking you "why" again and again today, and the same answers may not suffice. You're going to have to get creative, and soon!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):
 Today is the day to learn how to cope with a loss that has been affecting you for weeks or even months once and for all. Look forward!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):
 You can afford to be a little more dynamic in your approach today. Never fear attracting attention, for you've got something up your sleeve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):
 You must be more aware at this time of the kinds of things you can do to help others without being directly involved. Your influence will be felt!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):
 You will have to choose whether to remain true to your personal style today, or to adjust to the desires of someone in authority.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
 An idea you've been promoting for some time may prove to be nothing but an idle dream for now. In time, it will seem more than possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
 Anticipation may have you on pins and needles throughout much of the day, but it is quite likely your patience will be duly rewarded by nightfall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
 It's important, even essential for you to share your feelings with the one person who is most closely linked to you in every way today. Open up!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
 Someone may be rubbing you the wrong way. Say what you have to say to anyone who is offending you, but be sure you're not being vindictive.

STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST

BUT THAT FIRST STEP WAS A DOOZEY!
 National Park Service officials credit a combination of luck and softer snow with saving the life of an experienced climber who fell 19-hundred feet down Mount Rainier. 56-year-old Daves Eddy was at 12-thousand-400 feet and in blowing snow Sunday when he somehow lost his balance and tumbled down a sloping gully to the 10-thousand-500-foot level. He suffered cuts and an apparent broken leg. Four other climbers witnessed the fall and sent someone down to help Eddy while using a cell phone to call for help. He was airlifted off the mountain. Ranger Rick Kirschner tells the Seattle Times - "If this were to happen later in the season when a lot of the softer snow is melted and harder ice or rock (is) exposed, he definitely wouldn't have survived."

MAN TO WATCH CONVICT WIFE GIVE BIRTH!
 An Ohio man will be present when his convict wife gives birth - thanks to a federal court order. State officials had refused to allow 29-year-old Sean Turner to be present for the birth of his first child. But the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio went to court last weekend and got a federal judge to order the state to allow Turner to witness the birth. Turner's wife, Barbara, is serving a two-and-a-half-year sentence for prescription drug offenses. She'll be taken from a Columbus prison facility to the Ohio State University Medical Center to give birth. Turner will assume custody of the baby.

NO LAUGHING MATTER
 The cost of getting your yuks is up. That's according to humor consultant Malcolm Kushner's annual Cost of Laughing Index...which finds the cost of humor went up three percent last year. The Index - a compilation of 16 leading humor indicators - found the cost of a singing telegram delivered by a singing chicken went up 10 bucks to 75 dollars. The fee for writing a half-hour TV sitcom, meanwhile, rose 357 dollars to 12-thousand-248 bucks. There was no increase in the cost for admission to comedy clubs in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York, Denver, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and Seattle. And no increases were reported in the prices for Groucho glasses, still 15 dollars a dozen...arrow-through-the-head gags, six bucks a dozen...Mad magazine, two-50 at the newsstand...or singing telegrams delivered by a pink gorilla, 75 dollars. The cost for a dozen rubber chickens actually fell six dollars to 60 bucks. But Kushner says the three-percent increase is "no laughing matter." In his words - "It means we're paying bigger fees for smaller tee-hees."

PARTY ON, DUDES
 Spring break seems to be booming this year in Daytona Beach, Florida. There aren't any figures available...and won't be for weeks...but hoteliers, restaurant owners and tourism officials say it looks like a big year. Mike Jiloy of the visitors bureau says he wouldn't be surprised if there are as many as 10 to 20 percent more college students on hand than last year's estimated 140-thousand. Beach patrol officers say they think it's one of the best spring crowds they've had in several years. Everyone should thank Mother Nature - the weather has been as good as it's been in recent memory.

JOCKSTRIP

The World As We Know It
FORGET THE MAKE-OVER, GIMME THE 20-MILLION BUCKS!
 Who would you want to be most like if you could have a 20-million-dollar make-over? That's the question asked one-thousand people by Paycom Inc. and Suites to celebrate the Milwaukee-based lodging chain's 20-million-dollar remodeling program. National media personalities dominated women's top-three choices. When asked who they'd want to be most like if they could have a major make-over, Cindy Crawford was the name cited the most...followed by Oprah Winfrey and Katie Couric. Also on the list - Elizabeth Dole and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. When men were asked the same question, their top responses were Harrison Ford, Michael Jordan and George Clooney...followed by John F. Kennedy Junior, Bill Clinton, Denzel Washington and Matt Lauer.

TODAY'S THING WE DON'T UNDERSTAND
 Hundreds of people lined up yesterday outside a Los Angeles bookstore where...inside...former White House intern Monica Lewinsky was signing copies of her book "Monica's Story." It was billed as Lewinsky's only U.S. book-signing appearance...although she has signed autographs in England. One man said he got in line before 5:30 a.m. because he didn't want to be stuck in a huge line. Another said he wanted to meet Lewinsky because he has a crush on her.

NEWS OF OTHER LIFE FORMS
 The owners and marketers of the "Teletubbies" having taken Wal-Mart to court in New York for allegedly selling unlicensed knock-offs of the TV characters. "Teletubbies" owner Ragdoll Productions and marketers Itsy Bitsy Entertainment say Wal-Mart's "Bubbly Chubbies" dolls are obvious copies of the "Teletubbies" dolls. They say Wal-Mart even copied the "Teletubbies" logo on the packaging. The plaintiffs want Wal-Mart to stop selling the "Bubbly Chubbies"...destroy the remaining stock...and pay damages.

TODAY'S SIGN THE WORLD IS ENDING
 A survey of college students by U. The National College Magazine finds sympathy for Monica Lewinsky almost doubled in the wake of the former White House intern's interview with Barbara Walters. 46 percent of college students questioned said they felt sorry for Monica after watching the interview...compared with the 25 percent who said they felt sorry for her prior to the interview. Another finding - according to sources, the shade of Club Monaco lipstick...Glaze...that Lewinsky wore during the interview is sold-out nationwide.

AND FINALLY, TODAY'S UPLIFTING STORY
 Pennsylvania state police are building upon their success in reaching kids through a special "trading card" program. State Trooper Joe Lakkis (LAH-kih) from Troop P in Luzerne County says the idea for the trading cards came from his father...who saw a similar program being used in his home state of Florida. Lakkis says the trading cards program - which is now in its third year - has gone a long way in reaching children. He says many of these kids now await the new sets to add to their collections from previous years.

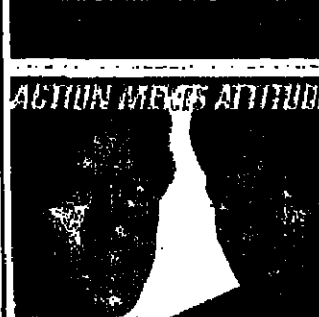
ENTERTAINMENT 23



THE MAGIC SWORD
 12:30 GALLERIA 1
 05:00 GALLERIA 2



YOU'VE GOT MAIL
 3:30/6:15/8:30/10:45
 GALLERIA 1



RUSH HOUR

RUSH HOUR
 1:00/3:15/6:30
 8:30/10:30
 GALLERIA 2

GALLERIA
 PHONE 393-1793

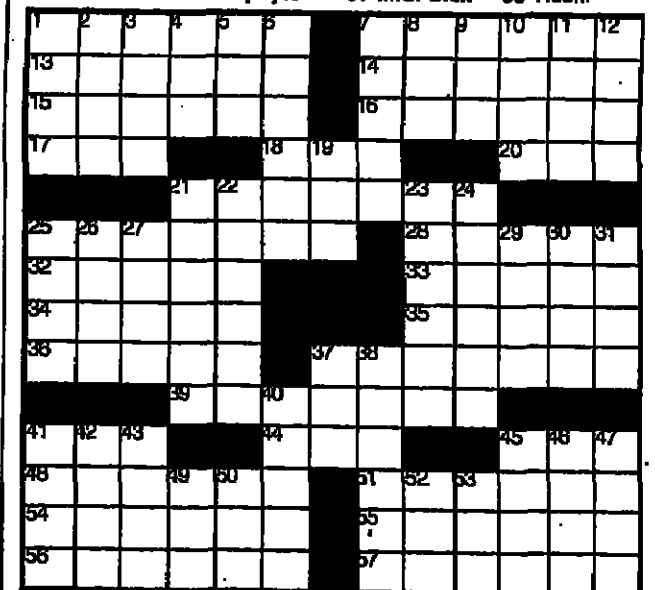
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Go on a diet
- Subtract
- Some bees
- Annual
- Fellow fighters
- Landlord
- Part of a tennis match
- Environment agency
- Gi's address
- Dogs
- Some
- Like
- Auto racer
- Al
- Laissez-
- Places
- Hoopster groups
- Human
- Unlucky
- Emblems
- Paper of indebt-
- ness
- the ramparts we watched

DOWN

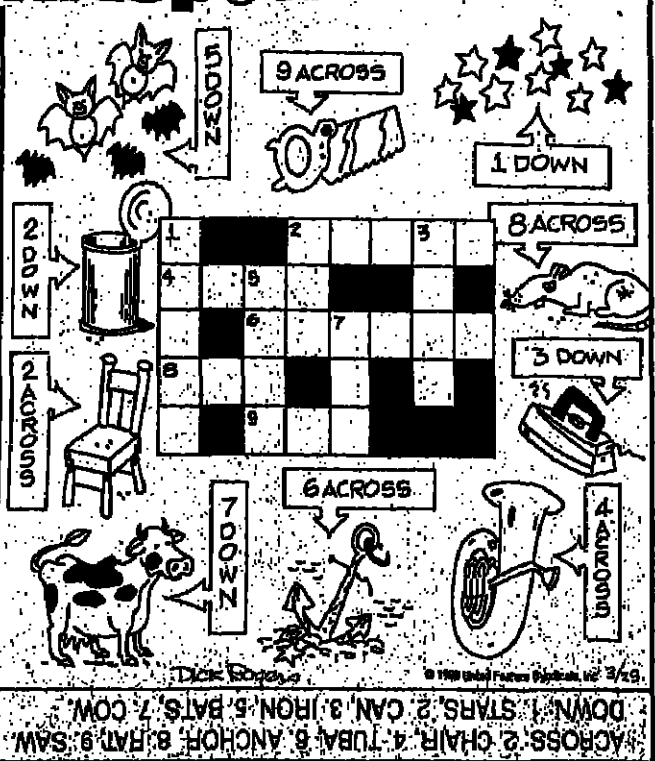
- Vitamin label state
- Author
- Stanley Gardner
- Dimwit
- Prefix for isolar or cellular
- Fair grade
- Ancient Jewish ascetic
- Folk singer
- Wide shoe
- size
- "Kapital"
- Major constellation
- Hooliboot
- Naophyte
- Greek letters
- Stops raining
- Remove moisture from
- Tower
- Bluish
- Housekeeper's names
- Upon
- Two words of under-
- standing
- Bee's home
- Crude
- metals
- Mrs. Dick
- Tracy
- Brit. honor
- Usual
- Habits
- Thought
- Petroleum derivatives
- Flying saucers
- abbr.
- Pelvic bones
- Exertion
- Poker stake
- "Shame!"
- Superlative suffix
- Party card
- game
- Assn.



SEE SOLUTION TOMORROW

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KidSpot by Dick Rogers



FROM HOLLYWOOD TO PERCY AND WANDA: THE FAMILY THAT GOES TO THE MOVIES

HAIR AWARDS

Almost as popular as who does or doesn't win an Oscar is discussing which stars rate a fashion "do" or "don't" at the awards ceremony.

For the second year, the makers of Rogaine rated the hairstyles at Hollywood's annual festivities and determined who were the Oscar's best-tressed males and female stars, in five categories:

Best New Hairstyle (male): Jim Carrey
Best New Hairstyle (female): Renee Zellweger
Sleekest Hair (male): Brendan Fraser
Sleekest Hair (female): Gwyneth Paltrow
Best-Tressed Couple: Warren Beatty and Annette Bening
Most Outlandish Hairstyle: Whoopi, Whoopi

TOM HANKS

Tom Hanks says he'll appear in his first public service campaign to help generate public awareness and support for the National World War 2 Memorial...to be built in our nation's capital.

Sponsored by The Advertising Council, the ad campaign will break this spring and will include television, radio and print ads.

The 100-million-dollar memorial will be funded primarily through private contributions. To date the campaign has raised more than 43-million dollars.

STUPID PET TRICKS

People came from miles around to Denver Sunday to show off their stupid pet tricks. Producers from "The Late Show with David Letterman" held auditions (at KCNC-TV-4) and found plenty of hopefuls. There was one cat who refused to do its dog-like tricks. And a German Shepherd disappointed its owner when it didn't sneeze on command as promised.

Each audition was videotaped and will be reviewed. Participants will be notified later if they make the show.

1999 GQ MEN OF THE YEAR

Two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks, "The Practice's" Dylan McDermott and rapper Sean "Puffy" Combs are among the nominees for the 1999 GQ Men of the Year.

The list of nominees in 15 categories will be included in the April issue of the magazine...on newsstands later this week. The winners will be featured in the magazine's November issue and honored at the fourth annual GQ "Men of the Year" awards show in New York City.

This year's nominees also include author Tom Wolfe, fashion designer Calvin Klein and "NYPD Blue" actor Rick Schroder.

DAVID STRICKLAND

"Suddenly Susan" star Brooke Shields is asking the news media to spare the sitcom's cast from "insensitive prying" in the wake of the death of co-star David Strickland.

The actor's body was found in a Las Vegas hotel room Monday...the same day he was to appear in a Los Angeles courtroom on a drug conviction. He apparently hanged himself.

Homicide investigators say they have no reason to believe Strickland's death is anything more than a suicide. No note was found in the room.

Strickland was arrested last Halloween in LA and in December pleaded guilty to a single count of narcotics possession. He accepted a 36-month sentence deferral and was supposed to appear in court Monday.

The 38-year-old Strickland began his acting career with guest appearances on "Mad About You," "Dave's World" and "Roseanne." He was in the movies "Postcards from America," "Object of Obsession" and "Delivered"...and was planning to direct a new film "Greenwich Mean Time."

On "Suddenly Susan," Strickland played Todd the music critic. In the new Sandra Bullock film "Forces of Nature," he was Steve...the ex-boyfriend of Maura Tierney's character, Bridget.

RUBY LEE AND OSSIE DAVIS

Actors Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis were among 71 demonstrators arrested outside New York City police headquarters yesterday while protesting the shooting of African immigrant Amadou Diallo.

The two actors - who've appeared in director Spike Lee's films - are the latest high-profile people to join the nearly 400 who've been arrested at the weekend protests organized by the Reverend Al Sharpton.

Says Dee - "When things go wrong there are mechanisms we can use to fix them, and one of them is protest." Adds Davis - "When people speak, it is up to power to listen."

Diallo was shot to death by four police officers in the doorway of his apartment building. He was unarmed.

ACTUAL FACTS

WHICH ANIMAL HAS THE LONGEST PREGNANCY?

It takes 640 days, or 21 months, to make an African elephant. Nothing else comes close. But giraffes and camels have gestation periods around 400 days, or 13 months. Whales and some seals take almost exactly a year. Cows and horses take longer than humans do. The orangutan matches the 266-day human time clock, more or less.

WHY IS A GOOD SPEECH CALLED A STEM-WINDER?

In 1867 - at the pinnacle of the era of the long, flowery oration - the Elgin National Watch Company produced the stem-winding watch...which was so good that for awhile anything good was called a stem-winder. Today, journalists who use the term couldn't tell you its derivation if their lives depended on it.

HOW MANY CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES CAN YOU NAME?

The cruciferous vegetables - which are generally held to be very good for you because they fight cancer - are cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, brussels sprouts, turnips, pak-choi and pe-tsai. Radishes and rutabagas are also in this family.

WHERE DOES THE WORD "COCKTAIL" COME FROM?

Wordsmiths think "cocktail" came from "coquetries"...drinks made by a New Orleans pharmacist in the 1700s. He named his drinks "coquetries" after the "egg cups" he served them in.

WHAT IS THE FASTEST ANIMAL?

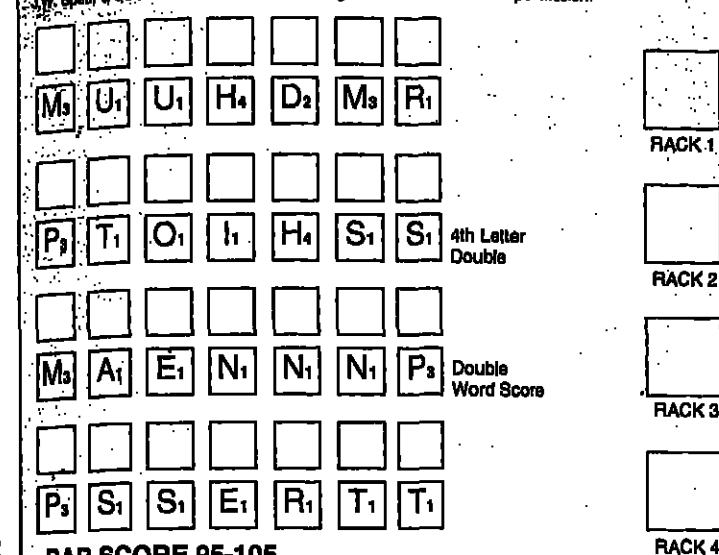
The peregrine falcon dives at more than 200 miles an hour. Eagles are almost as fast. The fastest horizontal bird is, appropriately, the swift. The fastest swimmer is the sailfish...which does better than 60 miles an hour. Swordfish, blue sharks and tuna all swim faster than dolphins. Cheetah are fastest on land...also topping 60. Roe deer and antelope outpace lions and rabbits.

WHY DO WE MENTION CHEESE TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING CHEAP OR SOMETHING SEXY?

Cheesy, meaning bad, is a late 1800s term stemming from the bad smell of some cheeses. A girl twirling her skirt limboingly reminded people of bygone days of the spinning of a wheel of cheese...and cheese came to mean "cheap" or "sex." The word "cheese" comes from the Old English word "cēsa," meaning "to spin."

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PAR SCORE 95-105

by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Morris-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 3-29-99 © 1999, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

A1	L1	P3	H4	A1			RACK 1 = 10
D2	R1	I1	Z10	Z10	L1	E1	RACK 2 = 66
L1	E1	G2	E1	N1	D2	S1	RACK 3 = 68
S1	L1	A1	C3	K6	E1	R1	RACK 4 = 68

PAR SCORE 130-140

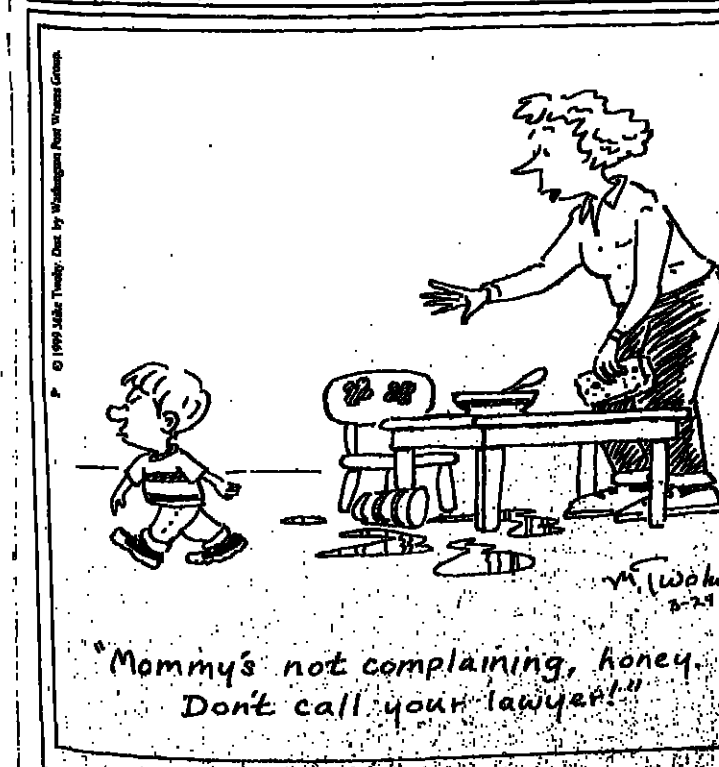
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SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

E1	X6	E1	G2	E1	T1	E1	RACK 1 = 95
T1	H4	R1	U1	S1	T1		RACK 2 = 13
S1	O1	I1	L1	I1	N1	G2	RACK 3 = 58
G2	R1	I1	L1	L1	E1		RACK 4 = 14

PAR SCORE 110-120

3-29-99



WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

- Chic ocean liner (1)
- May chomp (1)
- Russian monarch's jam containers (1)
- Splinter in fole grae makeup (2)
- Tangles coiled strands of head hair (2)
- Lifter of a pearl maker (2)
- President Benjamin's military posts (3)

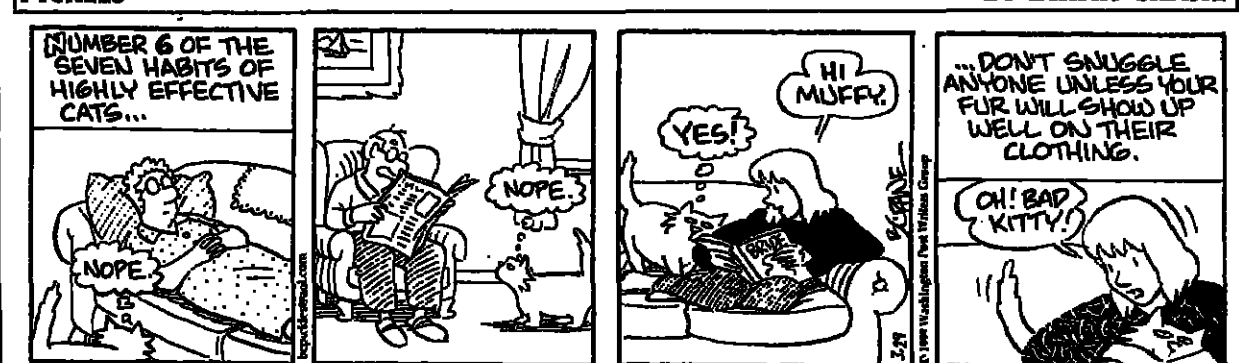
ANSWERS TO THURSDAY'S WORDY GURDY

- LARGE MAROE
- GERES BEERS
- NINE SHINE
- KOBES OBIS
- GUTTER CLUTTER
- BRITTLE SKITTLE
- PLACATION VACATION

ANSWERS TO FRIDAY'S WORDY GURDY

- PJS DJS
- STORE CHORE
- PHONY CRONY
- TREAT FEET
- PLEASE SQUEEZE
- TRUMANS LUMENS
- BRUSSELS TUSSELS

PICKLES



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



MEG



A LOOK AT COUNTRY MUSIC AND THE PEOPLE MAKING IT TODAY:

A CHANGE DID 'EM GOOD

Grammy-winning rocker Sheryl Crow sang "a change will do you good" a couple of years ago...and it looks like some of country music's biggest stars took Crow at her word.

Superstars Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Martina McBride—who spend much of their time performing country music for fans—took a break to watch Crow perform her rock numbers at the Grand Ole Opry House earlier this week.

And that's not Hill's only connection to the Opry. She's performing at the Opry's former home, the historic Ryman Auditorium, on May 21st.

JUNE IN APRIL

June Carter Cash says "Press On"—her new album set for an April 20th release—is in many respects an audio biography of her long and colorful career.

The daughter of country legend Maybelle Carter began performing with her mother and sisters as a child...hit the Grand Ole Opry stage with the Carter Family as a young woman...pursued an acting career in New York...and has been Johnny Cash's wife and touring partner for 31 years.

Songs included on the Small Hair Dog/Risk Records album include Carter Family classics "Diamond in the Rough" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?"...plus her husband's hit "Ring of Fire," a song she wrote with Merle Kilgore about falling in love with Cash. The album was produced by Carter Cash's son...John Carter Cash.

Carter Cash tells Billboard magazine—"The songs do tell a story about things that have happened to me."

WAVEY VANDERVA WILSON GOING DANKER GOIN' MILLER'S

Singer Cassandra Wilson accepted a major creative challenge two years ago when she began mining the music of Miles Davis for touchstones that would embrace her own musical journey.

While her project got off to an uneven, high profile start during an ambitious six-night concert series at Lincoln Center in December 1997, featuring Davis's music performed with a large all-star band, she regrouped and rethought things.

Refining the material and slimming down the band to an acoustic unit reflecting her musical strengths, Wilson has produced a stunning, if not magical, recording that is certain to pick up where its successful predecessors, "New Moon Daughter" and the Grammy-winning "Blue Light 'Til Dawn," left off.

"Traveling Miles" was released this week by the Blue Note label. While it conveys some of the spirit of Davis's music, there is no superficial covering of his compositions or other songs the late trumpeter turned into essential parts of the jazz canon.

Rather, Wilson looked for common ground. In the process, the project revealed restless similarities in their careers and musicality.

Many jazz purists turned their backs on Davis after the

late 1960s when he went electric with his bands. He took more of a pop approach to music in quest of commercial success, yet he was also following the creative restless muse that made him fully explore new interests.

"Miles is more than just a musician to me, he is an American icon. He is a paradigm. He symbolizes the essence of jazz and I think, the American spirit—the way we evolve, the way we adapt, the way that we create our lives as we go along," Wilson said in an interview.

"I think it is the best of what we do as Americans. It is a different thing that we have here. It says so much about who we are as a culture. Miles is for me very important symbol of that." Since emerging from the experimental avant-garde jazz scene, Wilson has done more than any other jazz vocalist of her generation to transcend stylistic boundaries.

She has embraced jazz, pop, folk and the country blues of her native Mississippi—and built a huge following in the last five years. The Traveling Miles project, which includes a six-week spring tour opening March 31 in Iowa City, will strengthen that.

In projects like this, Wilson says she doesn't have to go searching for material. "The songs just seem to stumble

onto me," she said. "The songs that I cover are the songs that won't go away. They stick in the front of my mind."

"I just follow my intuition generally. It's a journey inside. I'm still discovering the music of my childhood, mining all of these different kinds of music that I was exposed to. Jazz was the first music I was exposed to, and being in Mississippi, you hear a lot of blues. And my mother was into Motown and loved classical music."

The country blues feel is the foundation for the "Traveling Miles" project, in which Wilson fully explored the wide range of Davis's work. In addition to her small band, there were one-track guest appearances by guitarist Pat Metheny, singer Angelique Kidjo, saxophonist Steve Wilson and cornettist Olu Dara.

She included "Seven Steps to Heaven," "Blue In Green" and "Some Day My Prince Will Come" from Davis's early late 1950s and early 1960s groups, "Run The Voodoo Down" from his initial foray into fusion, and "Tutu" from the late 1980s, which became "Resurrection Blues" in this setting.

A pared-down version of Cyndi Lauper's pop hit "Time After Time" takes on a combined Davis-Wilson flavor. The song was Davis's primary concert ballad feature during his final touring phase from the

mid-1980s to 1990, when he explored its melody and nuances night after night—much as he did with "My Funny Valentine" 30 years earlier.

In addition to writing original compositions that complement the Davis material, Wilson penned lyrics for several instrumentals to fit the song. One of those is "Never Broken," which was "ESP" when Wayne Shorter wrote it for Davis's mid-1960s band.

Two originals that honor Davis's inspiration on her music are the title track "Traveling Miles" and another called "The Piper."

On the former, Wilson admires how Davis's restless creativity was a model for "crossing time, shifting style, traveling miles...and miles. You can hear him humming on a country road as the shadows grow to night, swinging through Seventh Avenue underneath the city lights," she sings. "Ringing out with no fear or doubt, we can live our dreams right now."

On the latter, Wilson's dusky voice carries the message for many fans of Davis's poignant trumpet tone and lyrical way with a ballad as she asks the piper to play her a song "to last all day long. We're floating on your sweetest melody and traveling through life's great mystery."

(UPI)

A LOOK AT POP MUSIC, AND THE PEOPLE MAKING IT TODAY:

RAPPER ODB

Another brush with the law for Wu Tang Clan rapper Russell Jones...a.k.a., Ol' Dirty Bastard or ODB. Police arrested him early yesterday in Brooklyn, New York—again—and charged him with drug possession and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Authorities say it all started when police officers asked Jones to move his double-parked Range Rover. He did as they asked...but then allegedly was unable to produce a driver's license or any documentation for the vehicle.

Police say they also found the rapper had three packets of crack cocaine in his possession.

Jones has a long "rap" sheet. He's been arrested for threatening his estranged wife in Queens and a security guard at the House of Blues and an ex-girlfriend with whom he's in the midst of a child-support dispute in Los Angeles. He's also been charged in LA with wearing a bullet-proof vest.

Earlier this year, a Brooklyn judge dismissed attempted-murder charges against him in a case where he had a run-in with undercover cops. A

grand jury said it didn't believe Jones had pulled a gun on police.

ELTON JOHN

Elton John and Tim Rice have teamed up again for "Elton John and Tim Rice's 'Aida.'" The album is due in stores today (on Rocket/Island/Mercury Records).

The CD features songs from the new stage musical by John and Rice...recorded by such superstars as LeAnn Rimes, Janet Jackson, Sting, Spice Girls, Boys II (to) Men, Shania Twain, James Taylor, Lenny Kravitz, Tina Turner and Kelly Price.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD

Five albums by the late Dusty Springfield are being re-issued today (by the Mercury/Chronicles label). The British pop singer died March 2nd following a long battle with breast cancer. She was inducted posthumously into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last week.

WATER-COOLER STORIES

FROM HUMVEE TO REDNECK V-8

U.S. Army officials searching for less expensive troop and cargo carriers are kidding the tires on heavy-duty pickup trucks made by Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler's Dodge division. The Army may replace its traditional Humvee light tactical vehicles, which cost about \$60,000 each, with versions of assembly-line pickups, which sell for about \$23,000.

WEAVING A WEB WEB

Vail Resorts Inc. is suing a New York man for ownership of World Wide Web domain names www.vail.com and www.beavercreek.com. Vail says when it went to Stuart Weiss to work out a deal to buy the sites, Weiss asked for 15 years worth of ski passes, a couple of free weeks' lodging each year and cash. Weiss does not deny asking for free skiing but denies he requested money.

TOP GIVER

Hedge fund manager George Soros, who has donated more than \$1 billion in the past two years alone, has taken the top spot as the most generous American according to Worth Magazine's third annual benefactor 100 list. WORTH's April exclusive roster of the 100 most generous Americans is the only ranking of the nation's top living donors based upon cumulative lifetime giving.

EURO 2000 QUALIFYING GAMES

SCHOLES HITS ALL THREE AS ENGLAND WINS 3-1 IN EURO 2000 QUALIFIER

WEMBLEY (AP) — Meet England's Scholes. Paul Scholes fired three goals as Kevin Keegan's England gained the victory the nation had demanded Saturday, a 3-1 win over Poland that rekindles its chances of gaining the European Championship title.

The Manchester United midfielder struck twice in the first 21 minutes, including a dubious hand-ball, and headed a third 19 minutes from the end as England ended the Poles' winning streak in Group 5. The result moved Keegan's team above them in the standings behind Sweden who downed Luxembourg 2-0 to go top. "It may be Sir Paul Scholes. They usually brighten you if you score a hat-trick at Wembley," a delighted Keegan said in a reference to Geoff Hurst's knighthood after scoring three times in the 1966 World Cup final.

The result before 73,836 fans at Wembley gave English soccer fans a huge feeling of relief after the Glen Hoddle era ended in disarray with the team looking unlikely to qualify.

The Swedes, who go to Poland on Wednesday, now have a maximum nine points from three games, England has seven from four and

Poland, which dropped from first to third, six from three.

Saturday's game was Keegan's first of four matches in charge while he takes over the job of coach on a short-term and part-time basis while he also tries to get division two Fulham promoted.

England cruised into a 2-0 lead in the first 27 minutes and then Keegan's men appeared to lose their way.

Andy Cole cleverly touched on a Graeme Le Saux free kick from the left to Shearer, who was tackled as he was about to shoot. But the ball ran clear to Scholes who lobbed it past keeper Adam Matyssek for England's first goal under Keegan after only 10 minutes play.

The second goal in the 21st minute was made in Manchester.

It came from a measured David Beckham cross from the right after a neat layoff from Cole and Scholes timed his run to perfection to bundle the ball in from close range with possibly a bit of help from his arm.

It should have been a signal for a runaway England win but the huge contingent of Polish fans were cheering six minutes later when their team unexpectedly pulled a goal back.

Miroslaw Trzcielak beat fullback Gary Neville to pace down the left and pulled the ball to Jerzy Brzezdek who was unmarked when he slid the ball home.

As England threatened early in the second half, Shearer's sliding shot was kicked off the line and Cole had a volley deflected over. The Manchester United striker, starting for the first time after three appearances as a substitute, then missed a golden chance when he shot wide of the near post from no more than five yards.

The Poles, with Trzcielak lively in their raids, always looked quick and menacing on the break but rarely created any clear-cut shooting chances and Scholes again showed them the way to goal with his third in the 71st.

With Arsenal's Ray Parlour running onto the field for his debut as a substitute for the disappointing Steve McManaman, Neville hurled in a long throw from the right, Shearer did well to head it on and Scholes climbed above two Polish defenders to score with a header from six yards.

It should have been 3-2 three minutes later when Brzezdek got round the back of the England defense and



Alan Shearer of England takes on Poland's Jacek Bak (No. 2), and Jacek Zieliński (No. 8) during their EURO 2000 Group 5 qualifier at Wembley stadium in London, March 27, 1999.

had only Seaman to beat from an acute angle but shot across the face of an empty goal.

Scholes almost hit a fourth in the 82nd minute with a 25-yard shot that flashed past the post and then was taken off to a huge ovation from the England fans.

"It's my first senior hat-trick and it went very well," the flame-haired Manchester United star said. Adding that Cole and Shearer had made big contributions. "They made the gaps for me and made the goals for me." Poland's coach, Janusz Wojcik, congratulated Scholes on his performance and said he played "like a horse."

"Although the second goal may have been with his arm, he had a very good game. It was surprising that the smallest player on the team scored three goals."

GERMANS SHRUG OFF STRING OF LOSSES WITH EMPHATIC WIN

BELFAST (AP) — After only one win in previous five matches — including an embarrassing 3-0 loss in February to the United States — any Germany victory is welcome.

"We knew from previous experience that this was going to be a tough battle today and the 3-0 scoreline was probably too high in our favor," said German coach Erich Ribbeck after Saturday's 3-0 win at Northern Ireland in a Euro 2000 qualifier, keeping Germany's hopes alive in Group 3.

The German team was heavily criticized going into Saturday's match at Windsor Park after winning just once under new coach Ribbeck.

But two first-half goals to striker Marco Bode and a second-half clincher to Newcastle striker Dietmar Hamann put the Germans back on track to defend their 1996 title.

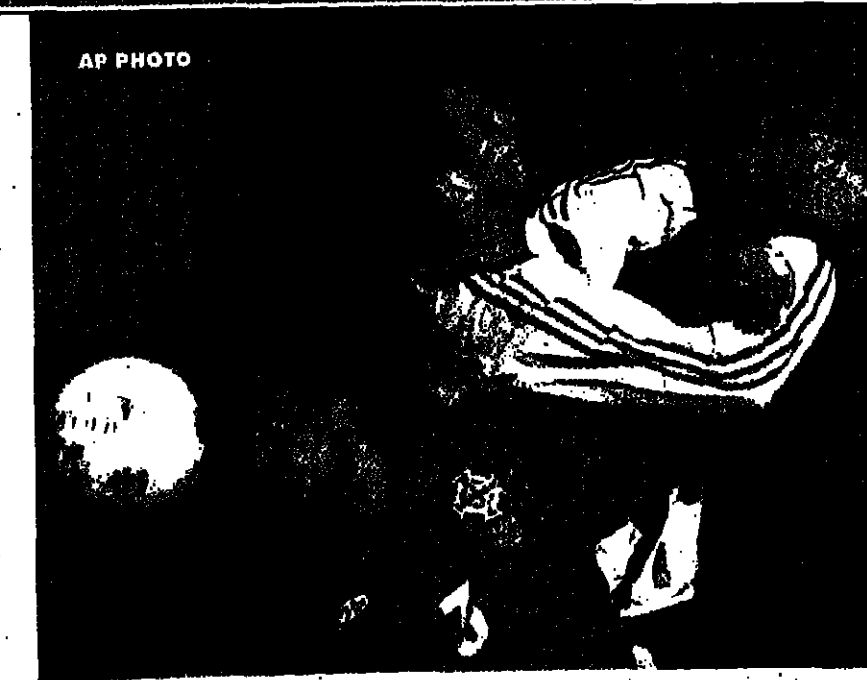
"After all that has gone before, this was a very important win for us — there was a lot of pressure on the team and we got our goals at vital times," Ribbeck said.

German captain Oliver Bierhoff said it was vital that his team scored first.

"Once we did that we were in control — these are three very vital points and certainly increases our chances of qualification," he said.

Hamann said Saturday's win over Northern Ireland was just part of a German comeback. The Germans play Finland next Wednesday.

"With a win against Finland we will then be in with a brilliant chance of qualifying," Hamann said. "There was a lot of pressure on



Germany's Oliver Bierhoff, right, and Northern Ireland's Kevin Horlock in an aerial challenge during the Euro 2000 qualifier match in Belfast's Windsor Park stadium Saturday March 27, 1999.

the team today and they all did very well and deserve credit."

Frank Beckenbauer, a World Cup winner and one of Germany's biggest soccer idols, said the win was crucial to restore confidence.

"There was a lot of pressure on the German

team because they've come in for heavy criticism and they were clearly very nervous following on from the defeat to the U.S.," he said. "So this was a very important win for them."

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING TEAMS

By The Associated Press

(Netherlands, Belgium qualify as hosts)

GROUP 1

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Wales	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
Switzerland	3	1	1	2	3	4	4
Denmark	4	0	2	3	5	2	2
Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

GROUP 2

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Norway	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Latvia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Greece	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Slovenia	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Georgia	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Albania	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

GROUP 3

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Turkey	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Germany	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
N.Ireland	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
Moldova	4	0	1	3	5	10	1

GROUP 4

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ukraine	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Iceland	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
France	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Armenia	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Russia	4	1	0	3	7	7	3
Andorra	4	0	0	4	1	9	0

GROUP 5

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
England	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Poland	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

GROUP 6

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cyprus	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Austria	4	2	1	1	8	11	7
Spain	3	2	0	1	13	4	6
Israel	3	1	1	1	7	3	4
San Marino	4	0	0	4	1	14	0

KRAJICEK WINS 17TH CAREER TITLE AT LIPTON

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA (R) — A day after celebrating his daughter's first birthday, Richard Krajicek provided the perfect gift Saturday with a four-set victory over unseeded Sebastien Grosjean to win the Lipton Championships.

Krajicek completed an impressive 4-6 6-1 6-2 7-5 triumph in typical fashion with a booming ace on match point. The seventh-seeded Dutchman pounded out 26 aces in the two hour 41 minute match against the young Frenchman.

"I didn't buy her (anything), but I won Lipton for her," Krajicek said of daughter Emma's birthday. "We had a birthday breakfast and the cake was later in the day."

The women's final, which will be an All-Williams family affair between sisters Venus and Serena, will be held on Sunday afternoon. It will be the first time in the Open Era of tennis which began in 1968 that two sisters will compete against each other in a final.

Krajicek's \$360,000 victory over the baselining 74th-ranked

Frenchman gave the Dutchman his 17th career title, but first in America since winning in Los Angeles in 1993.

It was the second title of the year for Krajicek, who won in London last month, but this one was not an easy victory.

Krajicek, who is 17-4 for the year, was feeling sick throughout the week and battled weakness and loss of appetite.

"I played very economic tennis today," said Krajicek, who earlier in the week defeated reestablished number one Pete Sampras for the fourth straight time and the sixth of eight times in career meetings.

"I didn't feel so good, so I was picking my right shots."

With the victory, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, who had surgery on his left knee last November, will move up in the rankings to fourth this coming Monday.

"The title is more important than the rankings," said the 27-year-old Krajicek. "I've been number five before and there isn't much difference between four and five."

The 20-year-old Grosjean, playing in his first ATP Tour final, had a set point on Krajicek's serve in the ninth game of the fourth set to draw even at two sets apiece, but the towering Dutchman's second serve elicited a weak return and he eventually held for 5-5.

A demoralized Grosjean, who gives away eight inches to the 6-5 (1.96 m) Krajicek, then was broken at 15-40.

"I think I had a chance in the fourth set when I had set point, but he served well," said Grosjean, the 1996 ITF junior world champion in singles and doubles, who will move into the top 50 rankings next week.

In a David and Goliath matchup, Grosjean used pinpoint groundstrokes to topple Krajicek in the first set, breaking serve twice to wrap up the set.

But Grosjean was unable to work the same magic against Krajicek that he did against other worthy opponents on his way to the final.

Grosjean, who had his biggest ever payday with a



U.S. tennis players Serena Williams (L) and her sister Venus (R) pose with their Lipton Championship trophies, yesterday following the final match. Venus defeated her sister Serena 6-1 4-6 6-4 to take the title.

\$190,000 check, had ousted two former French Open champions earlier in the tournament. He beat 1997 French titlist Gustavo Kuerten in the second

round and ended world number one Carlos Moya's brief two week reign at the top of world rankings by saving three match points in a third set tiebreaker

to win a fourth round match. "He's a fighter, he's a small guy, but he uses everything he has on the court," Krajicek said of Grosjean.

YUGOSLAV SPORTS STARS BACK MILOSEVIC

MILAN (AP) — Yugoslav stars playing for Italian soccer and basketball teams have rejected a call to stop playing in protest at NATO's attacks on their homeland, although they express support for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

So far the most prominent soccer player to heed the

Yugoslav federation's call on its many sporting expatriates to stop playing is Predrag Mijatovic, who scored the winning goal for Real Madrid in the 1998 European Cup final.

But most Italian-based players side with Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic, who told reporters: "I think the boycott is absurd."

"I'm a soccerer and this is my job. If I thought that by not playing I would bring the war to an end, I would stop straight away. But unfortunately, it wouldn't change anything."

But the defender stressed that he backed the Serb president in refusing to accept the internationally brokered peace treaty.

"I stand by him, because he is my president and the president of my people," Mihajlovic said. "He's made mistakes, nobody can deny that. But he was right not to sign that treaty because it was blackmail."

"Kosovo is an integral part of Serbia and has been for 600 years, since we fought the Turks. Any idea of autonomy is nonsense."

As for NATO's air raids, he said: "Everybody knows that I've been saying for months that what was happening in Kosovo was wrong. Now that NATO are doing exactly the same thing, killing lots of innocent people, people are saying that Milosevic is a murderer and those in NATO are heroes."

But he warned: "Even if they bomb us for another 100 years, that treaty will never be signed."

Mihajlovic, who returned from Yugoslavia via Hungary on Thursday, bringing his parents and brother with him, said: "It's hard to think of all those innocent people who are dying under the bombs."

"Everyone hopes that a diplomatic solution can be found."

Mihajlovic appeared at a news

conference with teammate and compatriot Dejan Stankovic, both wearing white T-shirts emblazoned with the words: "Peace - no war."

Concern was meanwhile easing at Serie A rivals Juventus, who were expecting the return late Saturday night of defender Zoran Mirkovic, who stayed on in Belgrade last week in a frantic bid to get an exit visa for his mother and two nephews.

After a wait of more than 24 hours, the club finally received a phone call from the player, who had reached Budapest by car. All four were due to fly to Frankfurt for a connecting flight to Turin.

The views of soccer players also appear to be shared by Yugoslav basketball, volleyball and water polo players here in Italy.

Star player Predrag Danilovic, who has won four league titles in four seasons with top Italian basketball team Kinder Bologna, said his fellow countrymen would continue to play, but wearing black.

"This war is an aggression against a sovereign state which, for its part, has not attacked anyone," Danilovic said.

"It is an action sought by the United States, the great sheriff of the world, and by Great Britain in order to get NATO into Yugoslavia, a country which has always been non-aligned, using Kosovo as a pretext."

"This is different from Bosnia, because it's an internal matter which has to be settled by those involved, Serbs and Albanians."

"For that reason, the NATO mission, which is inconceivable and unacceptable, can only be condemned."

And he added: "Kosovo was Serbian territory before the United States was even born."

As for sport, he said: "We basketball players have decided to continue to play, but to wear a black ribbon on our kit, as a sign of mourning."

"The federation has so far left us to decide. But if Milosevic or his officials asked us not to play, I couldn't refuse."

And he argued: "Milosevic was right not to sign the treaty because it wasn't negotiations; it was an ultimatum."

"And I ask myself, why NATO didn't do the same thing in similar situations? In Ireland and Spain."

KWAN LOSES TITLE TO DYNAMIC RUSSIAN BUTYRSKAYA

HELSINKI (AP) — Maria Butyrskaya of Russia, thought by many to be too old and too skittish to be figure skating world champion, took the title from Michelle Kwan on Saturday with a dynamic and solid performance that left her younger and usually steadier rival with the silver.

Butyrskaya, 26, has appeared to get spooked in some previous high-pressure finals, but she was clearly in command of the rink from the opening moments of her free-skating program, leading off with a soaring triple lutz in a piano concerto by Raul di Blasio.

The serious music and pure white dress was a distinct contrast to her short program of the day before, when she wore hot red and skated to a moaning blues. But the common factor in the two routines was her energy and assurance.

"I skated like a woman and showed I can control my nerves," said Butyrskaya, who became the oldest-ever women's champion. "Age isn't very important."

Six of the nine judges gave her 5.9s for presentation and the others were 5.8s. She landed seven triple jumps in the program.

Kwan, the defending champion, lacked the sparkle that usually makes spectators unable to glance away from her, and she seemed tentative technically, converting a planned double axel into a single and landing her opening triple lutz a bit awkwardly.

Underlining the contrast

between the two, Butyrskaya's final jump was a clean and vigorous double axel.

The 18-year-old Kwan had caught cold en route to Helsinki and although she'd overcome it by the end of the week, it had undermined her earlier practices - and her confidence.

On Saturday "I felt okay ... but my cold probably hit me harder psychologically. I was fighting inside," she said.

Kwan's long program, to Jules Massenet's symphonic piece "Lamento d'Ariane," was distinctly stronger than the previous day's short program, when she fell on a double axel.

"During the performance, I fought. And that's why I'm satisfied now," Kwan said.

But she had ended the short program in fourth place, while Butyrskaya was in first. Under this year's new scoring system, Butyrskaya would have had to place third or lower in the free skating for Kwan to have a chance to win.

From the moment Butyrskaya ended her routine with a triumphant arm raise, her face working with emotion, it was clear that Kwan was out of contention.

But whether she's out of skating is still to be decided.

"Jeez, let's take one thing at a time," she said when asked about her plans of going to college. "I really have to go back and make a decision. Right now it's in favor of skating."

Julia Soldatova of Russia on the bronze medal, completed a triple salchow-triple toe loop, the only skater to do that com-



Russia's Maria Butyrskaya performs to win the gold medal in the ladies' free program of the World Figure Skating Championships in the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, Finland, Saturday March 27, 1999.

bination in the final program.

American Sarah Hughes, at 13 the championships' youngest entrant, finished seventh.

Butyrskaya's victory completed a sweep for the Russian team. Alexei Yagudin won the men's title with a brilliant free skating display of a quad and eight triple jumps. In all, there were 14 quads done by men at the world championships, the most ever.

Yelena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze took the pairs amid a controversy where two judges

appeared to be seen to be conversing and exchanging signals during the competition. A technically superior but less artistic Chinese pair was second.

In the ice dance, Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsinnikov won again with a 5-4 decision over a French couple.

Next year's world championships will be in Brisbane, Australia, the first time the world championships will be held in the southern hemisphere.

EX-BULLS STAR NEGOTIATING TO BUY SHARE OF NBA CLUB

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Former Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan is negotiating to buy a share of the Charlotte Hornets. NBA commissioner David Stern said Saturday.

Stern said Jordan has been talking with Charlotte owner George Shinn about purchasing a 50-percent share of the American National Basketball Association club.

"There have been preliminary discussions about Michael and George becoming equal partners in the ownership and operation of the Hornets," Stern said in a statement released by the league. "Those discussions are ongoing but are not near an agreement."

Shinn also released a state-

ment saying he was hopeful of completing a deal with Jordan, who retired from the Bulls earlier this year. "There have been preliminary discussions about Michael Jordan possibly becoming an ownership partner with me," Shinn said. "Our hope over the next few meetings is to work out a partnership that will benefit the Hornets and the entire community."

Neither Jordan nor his agent, David Falk, could be immediately reached for comment. Shinn, who was part of the original ownership group when the Hornets joined the league in 1988, has come under increasing pressure recently to sell the club.

The Hornets have lost several

high-profile players because of the team's refusal to pay eight-figure salaries, and attendance has been on a steady decline in the past two seasons.

Coach Dave Cowens quit in frustration earlier this month, and Shinn, who is the defendant in a sexual misconduct lawsuit in South Carolina, rarely attends games anymore. He sat in the stands for Friday night's victory over Orlando but refused to speak to reporters.

Shinn's wife has filed for divorce.

Jordan in January ended his 13-year career with six championships, five NBA Most Valuable Player awards, and 10 scoring titles.

With an annual off-court

income estimated at \$45 million, Jordan could afford to buy a piece of a team with an estimated worth of \$150 million.

Buying into the Hornets also would put Jordan closer to his childhood home. He is a native of North Carolina, raised in Wilmington and played collegiately for the University of North Carolina. His mother lives in Charlotte. "This could work out great for everybody," said a Hornets employee who spoke Saturday on the condition of anonymity. "This could help George solve his image problem, give Michael something to do in retirement and give the team a boost at the same time."



Jordanian jockeys take places in Syrian tournament

Al Bassel International Equestrian Tournament in Damascus ended with a first place win for Syrian jockey Yasser Sarif, Kuwaiti jockey Khalid Kubeissi in second place, and two Jordanian equestrians coming in sixth and seventh.

Khaled Kubeissi was in the lead throughout the final round until the last fence when his horse, disturbed by journalists' camera flashes, dropped the last fence bar, causing Khaled to come in second.

Hani Bisharat and Mona Suktian of Jordan earned sixth and seventh places, respectively.

The Jordanian Equestrian Team received an invitation to participate in Al Arab Equestrian Tournament to be held in Kuwait mid April.

Preparations being discussed for Pan Arab Games

The Pan Arab Games Organizational Committee have decided to hold meetings for heads of various sports federations in order to discuss their preparations for the 9th Pan Arab Games to take place in Amman this summer.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

* Basketball, volleyball, handball, bridge and soccer federation meetings will be held on Thursday, April 8th at 12 pm.

* Table tennis, badminton and tennis federations will meet at 1pm on Thursday, April 8th.

* Boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, bodybuilding, judo, Tae Kwon Do, fencing and karate meetings are at 11am Thursday, April 15th.

* Gymnastics, equestrian, shooting, cycling, chess and swimming federations will meet on Thursday, 15th April at 12 pm.

Jordan Handball Federation holds meeting

In the meeting held on Wednesday, Federation president Sari Hamdan discussed the meeting between he and Princess Basma.

Hamdan said that the princess praised the performance of the National Handball Team and stressed the necessity of holding Al Hassan Handball Championship soon, which was previously postponed due to the passing away of the late King Hussein.

He also announced that Princess Basma is going to head the federation's next meeting, which is scheduled for April 6.

The attendants also discussed the report presented by the coach of the national team on the team's participation in the Croatian training camp, which was held between March 12-21.

The following decisions were also made during the meeting: Approval will be sought from the Ministry of Youth concerning the team's participation in the Croatian Handball Championships next summer.

Fayq Haimouz was assigned with the task of forming a new Refereeing Committee after the previous committee's resignation.

The new team formations were approved.

The possibility of a training camp in Egypt for the women's team will be looked into.



Yugoslav soccer player Predrag Mijatovic who plays for Spanish team Real Madrid, held a press conference at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Friday. Mijatovic travelled back from Belgrade following the cancellation of Yugoslavia's European qualification against Croatia because of the current conflict. Yugoslav soccer players are playing for Spanish teams currently think of a play boycott to protest against the NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia.

